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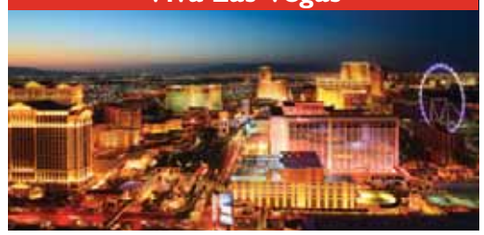

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Vancouver metro

WEEKEND
JUNE 26-28, 2015
High 27°C/Low 17°C

SPEAKING OF TALKING TEDDIES...
metroLIFE

Ashley Lawrence (22), Allysha Chapman (15), Melissa Tancredi (14), Sophie Schmidt (13), and Desiree Scott (11) of the Canadian Women's National team sing the national anthem with their teammates and local children prior to their FIFA Women's World Cup match at BC Place on June 21. More FIFA coverage, metroSPORTS. JENNIFE RGAUTHIER/FOR METRO

Gender gap persists in sports

EQUALITY

Those surveyed said women's sports are 'less exciting'

Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

Canadians are paying almost as much attention to the FIFA Women's World Cup as they do to professional hockey — a triumph in a country where, despite the widespread belief that women's sports empower girls, gender stereotypes in sports still persist, according to a new Angus Reid survey.

Nearly one third (32 per cent) of Canadians are following the tournament where Canada will take on England in the quarter finals at B.C. Place on Saturday, according to the survey released Friday.

That's just shy of the 40 per cent who closely follow the NHL, and above the 21 per cent who watch the CFL and 18 per cent who are into baseball, according to a November Angus Reid survey.

The vast majority of the 1,511 Canadians surveyed in early June believe women athletes are great role models for girls (90 per cent) and that girls should be encouraged to play sports just as much as boys (92 per cent).

But the survey reveals that women have yet to play their way onto equal footing with men.

One third of respondents said some sports are "unwomanly," and 49 per cent agreed that people are not interested in watching women play sports.

Sports fans were also prepared to shell out more cash to watch the men's World Cup final compared to the women's World Cup.

Fifty-one per cent of young men (compared to 31 per cent of young women) agreed that women's sports are "less exciting" than men's sports, a sentiment that nearly half of self-identified avid sports fans also agreed with.

The survey comes days after Sports Illustrated writer Andy Benoit landed in hot water on social media for a disparaging tweet about the women's World Cup.

His post read: "Not women's soccer … women's sports in general not worth watching."

Comedians Amy Poehler and Seth Meyers took him to task in a skit that compared a game-winning goal in the women's tournament to a golfer missing a putt.

It seems the majority of Canadians agree with the comedians, with 66 per cent disagreeing that women's sports are less exciting.

Baseball event has women dig for diamonds PAGE 3

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Eh-mojis show Canadian pride. Business

Respect is a girl's best friend, say feminists

VICTORIA

Diamond Dig, promo to draw women, strikes out with some

Thandi Fletcher
Metro | Vancouver

A promotional event being held by a Victoria amateur baseball team that invites women to dig through dirt in search of jewellery is striking out with some feminist fans.

Diamond Dig, which bills itself as a "ladies-first promotion that is sure to bring a lot of smiles," will invite women at this Sunday's HarbourCats game at Royal Athletic Park in Victoria to use plastic spoons to dig through piles of dirt behind the home plate to find a buried ring box.

The woman who finds a ring box that contains an actual ring will win a $1,000 gift certificate to local jewellery store Barclays.

Jim Swanson, general manager of the HarbourCats, said the game is a participatory promotion that women can choose to take part in if they wish.

"I guess I don't see (it as) degrading to women. I think that's taking it way far," Swanson told Metro. "I know that my wife would be excited to go in it if she was eligible."

A group of women take part in a diamond dig competition at a Frisco RoughRiders baseball game in May. YOUTUBE

Swanson said diamond digs are commonplace in baseball and that he has not heard a single complaint that the concept of the promotion is degrading to women.

"We think it's going to be a lot of fun for everybody," he said.

But Janni Aragon, Director, Technology Integrated Learning at the University of Victoria, was less than amused when she learned about the event.

As an avid baseball fan who regularly attends HarbourCats games, Aragon said she was "shocked and a little frustrated" to hear about the event.

"I don't think it's particularly funny," she said. "I have a really good sense of humour, but talk about playing with the 'gold digger' trope."

Aragon said the idea of women digging through dirt for diamonds plays into the "stereotype of women being obsessed with gold or jewellery."

While she understands that tongue-in-cheek races for fans are a fun aspect of baseball games, she said this event just "doesn't sit well" with her.

She said organizers could have come up with many different types of games, like a bean-bag toss, that don't promote negative female stereotypes.

"It just plays with those stereotypes and I find it demeaning," she said.

"People can say, 'Oh, Janni, get a sense of humour,' but this is not something that I would participate in."

University of B.C. language and literacy education professor Annette Henry agreed.

"It's demeaning, in my opinion," she said. "This doesn't feel good to me and it shows me that we haven't moved that far. It puts women in a box where they'll do anything for a piece of jewellery."

While she realizes the intention of the promotion is to be fun, Henry said she hopes the upcoming Diamond Dig sparks discussion about whether similar events should continue to be promoted simply because they are accepted practice.

"Or they can at least give them gold spoons or something," she said with a laugh.

IN BRIEF

Outgoing ombudsman cites notable cases

An elderly Vancouver woman who was hounded by city building inspectors for home renovations she did 36 years earlier to accommodate a disabled child is highlighted in an annual report by B.C.'s outgoing ombudsperson.

Kim Carter said that after her office intervened, the woman was able to reach a compromise with city officials who sought costly home repairs from the work done in 1979.

"This lady could provide records herself, which led us to determine that we thought the city hadn't got it right."

Carter, whose office received more than 7,800 complaints last year, focused much of her report on municipal governments. She is retiring after nine years on the job.

"My time as ombudsperson leaves me with the knowledge that this office can make a significant positive difference in the lives of individuals and communities," Carter said in the report.

She cited another probe involving a resident who received a letter of apology from the Kitimat-Stikine regional district after an employee at an animal shelter injected his dog with pre-euthanasia medication. That happened just before a court granted the dog, named Siri, a stay of execution. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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p: Paul Morrison

People shop for a variety of goods on The Drive on Thursday. The neighbourhood wants to maintain its unique shops and character. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

Change coming to The Drive

EAST VANCOUVER

Council to vote on 'Little Italy' designation in the spring

Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

One of the city's most vibrant, beloved streets could soon get a bike lane, extra density, and even a new name.

Commercial Drive is on the verge of change as council voted this week to move forward with the Grandview-Woodland community planning process and to consider designating a stretch of The Drive "Little Italy." Pending any hiccups, the final plan and Little Italy designation will be decided upon in spring 2016.

It's a step forward after a nearly two years delay in the community planning process, which was paused when the city surprised the neighbourhood by including a 36-storey tower near the Commercial-Broadway SkyTrain station in its draft community plan. No one at the city has fully explained the gaffe or why the planning department included the tower in the draft despite no mention of it at numerous open houses.

To appease the irate East Van neighbourhood, council created and funded a Citizens' Assembly to hammer out a cohesive plan for the area's future.

Council received the 43-person assembly's final report this week — and it includes future direction for The Drive, which roughly stretches from Venables Street to East 14th Avenue. "There's a lot of concern with keeping The Drive and the wonderful kind of magic it has and mostly to try to preserve the small shops and that character," said Rachel Magnusson, chairwoman of the assembly.

While the assembly doesn't speak for everyone — "that's impossible," she said — it does represent a consensus from a variety of perspectives.

The assembly recommended a separated bike lane between East 14th and Graveley Street.

The local business association isn't keen on the proposal, but the assembly figures it can be done without losing much parking if it's designed similarly to Union Street, Magnusson said.

Mayor Gregor Robertson backed the bike lane in a May interview with Metro, but added his support was contingent upon having it work for businesses and the neighbourhood.

"I'd love to see wider sidewalks on The Drive. It's such a great shopping street and people come from all over to experience The Drive and its restaurants and shops," Robertson said. "It would be great to reduce the car pressure and to make it more pedestrian and bike friendly."

> **There's a lot of concern with keeping The Drive and the wonderful kind of magic it has.**
> Rachel Magnusson

The assembly remained largely silent on the street's most controversial issue, the relocation of the Kettle Friendship Society to a badly needed new location funded by a large condo tower built by Boffo.

There is strong debate over whether the city should rely on developer funding for the social service, and it's nowhere near resolved.

Meanwhile, NPA Coun. Melissa De Genova successfully added to the agenda the idea of naming part of the street near East 1st Avenue Little Italy.

She noted that 80 per cent of businesses in those few blocks are small Italian businesses, some that have been around for decades.

"Vancouver is increasingly unaffordable, there's pressure on these people to move out of the area," De Genova said Thursday. "For people who might not be as aware of Italian heritage of the area, this gives the business improvement association an opportunity to market the area."

Vision Vancouver voted to include a decision on Little Italy in the entire Grandview-Woodland plan, a move that didn't impress De Genova.

"Unfortunately it's now tied up in Vision Vancouver's red tape," she said. "I hope this will be designated Little Italy by the next Italian Day."

Earlier this month, more than 300,000 people flocked to the street to celebrate the red, white and green.

A cyclist and pedestrians cross Commercial Drive. A bike path could be coming to the area. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

An Italian flag waves on Commercial Drive, June 25. Part of the street could be renamed 'Little Italy.' JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

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The crew of Canadian Coast Guard Ship John P. Tully tests oil spill response equipment on the waters near Vancouver on Thursday. PHOTOS MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

MPs defend oil spill response

ENVIRONMENT

Coast Guard and partners well prepared, Tory MPs say

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

The Canadian Coast Guard and its partners are well prepared to deal with an oil spill off Vancouver's coast, according to local Conservative MPs.

Andrew Saxton (North Vancouver) and Wai Young (Vancouver South) observed Coast Guard oil spill response equipment testing on Thursday and defended its capability and record to date, including the response to the MV Marathassa bunker fuel spill in English Bay on April 8.

"We believe we have a world-class system in place," said Saxton. "Within 36 hours (of the Marathassa spill), 80 per cent of the spill was contained, 96 per cent within 48 hours. We can always do better but I think, to date, the response has been extremely good."

The CCGS John P. Tully offshore science vessel led Thursday's drill, its crew deploying a V-sweep oil recovery system in the water as a skimming vessel from Western Canada Marine Response Corp. provided support.

Supt. Philip Murdock, in charge of environmental response at the Coast Guard's western region, said large vessels like the Tully train to use its spill response equipment once a year.

Even though its primary function is scientific research, Murdock said the vessel is one of 27 ships and six helicopters able to respond to urgent spills on the south coast.

"We throw all of our resources at it until we know the extent of the spill," he said.

> **We believe we have a world-class system in place.**
> MP Andrew Saxton

Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson was among those critical of the Coast Guard's response to the MV Marathassa spill.

He told media in the week following the spill that residents expect a response within minutes, not hours.

Murdock said the response did happen within 30 minutes, but only once it was actually reported (the Marathassa's crew was unaware their vessel was leaking). Some 3,000 litres of fuel was released into English Bay during the incident.

The final cost of the clean-up is unknown, though the City of Vancouver estimates its own costs to be in the hundreds of thousands.

The Coast Guard's review of the incident is expected to be completed next month.

Murdock said the agency responded to more than 600 reports of spills and leaks in the western region last year.

Despite the high-profile closure of the Kitsilano station and three communications centres, Young said the Coast Guard's budget has been increased by 27 per cent in the last year and the government is currently beefing up its "polluter pay" model.

"We take this seriously and we recognize that our waters are important to us," she said.

"I appreciate Vancouver's waters like any other Vancouverite. I love our beaches and our parks. That's why we're here to look at what's in place. And if there's more that needs to be done, we can look at that."

Kinder Morgan's proposed Trans Mountain pipeline expansion project, currently under review at the National Energy Board, has been driving spill response awareness in the region in the past few years.

If approved and built, the amount of crude oil transported to the Vancouver area and shipped through its waters via tankers would triple.

Evidence submitted by the City of Vancouver estimate a "worst case" spill as a result of the $5-billion project could expose a million people to toxic fumes, kill 100,000 sea- and shorebirds, and cause $1.2 billion in economic losses.

Kinder Morgan challenges the credibility of those figures.

WITH FILES FROM EMILY JACKSON

The CCGS John P. Tully, an offshore oceanographic science vessel, is equipped with a V-sweep boom and is capable of responding to urgent oil spills, the Coast Guard says.

Western Canada Marine Response Corp. skimming vessel M.J. Green takes part in a co-ordinated oil spill response drill with the Canadian Coast Guard in Vancouver.

Philip Murdock, superintendent of environmental response at the Canadian Coast Guard Western Region, observes spill response training.

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HOMELESSNESS

Good Samaritan just wants a job

A homeless man who captured the hearts of thousands when he found more than $2,000 on a suburban street in Victoria and turned it into police says he won't accept thousands of dollars raised in his name.

The Good Samaritan, who police said doesn't want to be identified, said he wants the nearly $5,000 in donations collected for him from people across Canada to instead go toward others in need. His only wish is to get help finding a job, police said.

Const. Alex Bérubé of West Shore RCMP, who took a special interest in the case, said he spent hours tracking down the man to tell him about the community fundraising effort underway to help support him.

"It's not easy tracking down a person of no fixed address and no phone," Bérubé said in a news release. "But I kept trying because I needed to tell him about how the community had rallied together to help him."

When he finally found him, Bérubé said he was surprised to hear the man ask for the funds to be donated to Our Place, a local community centre that helps the most vulnerable, and other food service providers for people in need.

The mystery man first made headlines last week when police praised him for his honesty for turning in the large sum of cash because it was the "right thing to do."

THANDI FLETCHER/METRO
WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

EFFORTS

Mike Kelly, founder of the media website Victoria Buzz, who was moved by the man's selflessness and started the fundraising effort, said he will ensure the funds are donated to Our Place and is spearheading efforts to help find the man work.

BOUNTIFUL CASE

Province to pursue polygamy charge

The B.C. Supreme Court has thrown out a bid by a lawyer for Winston Blackmore to have a polygamy charge against him dismissed.

The leader of a fundamentalist Mormon sect in southeastern B.C. is accused of polygamy for having more than two dozen wives.

B.C. Supreme Court Justice Austin Cullen has ruled that the province can proceed with a prosecution against the Bountiful, B.C., leader for historical acts of polygamy dating back more than four decades.

Blackmore's lawyer petitioned the court to dismiss the charge recommended against him in 2012 by arguing that the province appointed a series of special prosecutors until it found one who would recommend a polygamy charge.

Cullen has ruled that the mandate of the most recent special prosecutor was sufficiently different from those of his predecessors.

Blackmore's most recent marriage took place a full decade before a 2011 reference question concluded that Canada's laws forbidding polygamy did not violate the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

RCMP arrest offender with 12 outstanding warrants

A 39-year-old man has been arrested for allegedly committing property crimes, driving offences and fraud in multiple jurisdictions ranging from West Vancouver to Kelowna.

Coquitlam RCMP say Paul Herbert is a prolific offender who was located after his fingerprints were allegedly found on a stolen vehicle.

Mounties say there were 12 outstanding arrest warrants for Herbert from more than five jurisdictions.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

B.C. Crown challenges judge's ruling

The Crown is appealing a B.C. Supreme Court ruling that recently struck down changes to a dangerous-offender law championed by the federal Conservative government.

The ruling stems from the case of Donald Boutilier who pleaded guilty in May 2012 to offences including assault and robbery. His lawyer challenged the Crown's bid to declare him a dangerous offender, based on an omnibus crime bill passed in 2008. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vancouver is the first city in Canada to regulate illegal marijuana dispensaries, despite strong warnings from the federal government. But the city has also decided to ban edible pot products, such as brownies. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Top doctor defends city's edible pot ban

MARIJUANA

Brownies, cookies are poisoning kids: U. S. stats

Vancouver's top doctor is defending the city's decision to ban edible pot products such as brownies and cookies, pointing to data that shows child poisonings have skyrocketed by 600 per cent in U.S. states where marijuana is legal.

Lawmakers south of the border have grappled with how to regulate the products. In Washington, nearly half of marijuana poisoning calls last year involved children, while Colorado only recently introduced stricter requirements for packaging, potency and contents.

Dr. Patricia Daly, Vancouver Coastal Health chief medical officer, said the city looked closely at the experiences of U.S. states before banning edible marijuana from stores.

"The concern is the marketing and retail sale of products that look exactly like candies and baked goods, and the poisonings that we know might occur in children," she said. "This is a really early warning signal in the United States. We don't want to see that happen here."

Vancouver city council voted on Wednesday to impose regulations on medical marijuana dispensaries, institute a licence fee and enforce strict location requirements. Edible pot products will now be banned from stores, sparking criticism from advocates who say the move violates a recent Supreme Court decision.

Daly pointed to a recent study in Clinical Pediatrics, which found that the rate of marijuana poisonings among children five years of age and younger has increased by 610 per cent between 2006 and 2013 in states that legalized medical marijuana before 2000.

She said childproof containers and labelling has not prevented such poisonings, which can cause kids to stop breathing, suffer seizures and even become comatose.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CASE STUDY

In Washington, labels on pot products can't use cartoon characters or bright colours, and each standardized 10-milligram serving of THC must be marked on the package. Edibles are limited to products that have a long shelf life, such as brownies, cookies and candies. Still, Dr. Alexander Garrard of the Washington Poison Centre said calls about marijuana poisonings caused by edibles have tripled in the last decade. There were 245 calls last year, of which 108 were children, he said.

HEAT WAVE

Water trees and stay hydrated, city says

Humans aren't the only ones in need of hydration during the anticipated heat wave this weekend.

The Vancouver Park Board is imploring residents to water trees so the 6,000 recently planted street trees don't wither and die in temperatures forecast to reach 29 C on the coast and 33 C inland on Sunday.

Trees are exempt from water restrictions and young trees require between 11 to 19 litres twice a week, according to the park board.

"Watering could even become a family activity and a great opportunity to teach children about the importance of trees," park board chairman John Coupar said in a statement.

Two of the park board's five water trucks are already doing double shifts to ensure the trees get enough water, which is rare at this point in the season.

The hot temperatures have also prompted warnings from local health authorities for people to stay hydrated and check in with at-risk people such as seniors, children younger than five and those who are homeless or are reliant on caregivers.

There are more than 250 water fountains available throughout the city; officials are encouraging residents to cool off in pools, water spray parks and air-conditioned libraries and community centres.

The Union Gospel Mission is putting out the call for hot weather supplies badly needed by people who are homeless or living in shelters. The Downtown Eastside charity is accepting donations of sunscreen, reusable water bottles, hats, bottled water, new underwear and light, long-sleeve shirts. EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Young trees need water for about two years before their roots are well established. EMILY JACKSON/METRO

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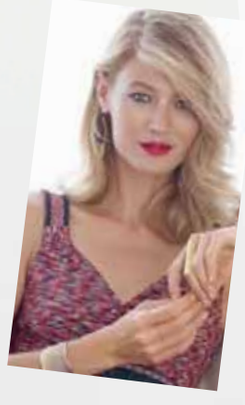

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Vancouver closes block for annual Robson Redux

DOWNTOWN

Pedestrians invited to take a seat, enjoy Porch Parade

Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

The City of Vancouver is blocking traffic in the heart of downtown to make way for wood-framed houses in front of the art gallery.

Don't fret — the city isn't building micro housing units on the 800 block of Robson Street. The construction is for Viva Vancouver's Robson Redux, the annual summertime shutdown that creates a plaza and allows pedestrians to take over the street.

This year's $40,000 installation called Porch Parade will provide ample seating until Labour Day.

"The intent is that it will create this lively atmosphere for downtown Vancouver, where people can interact, work, connect, watch people from," Cheryl Nelms, director of street activities, said Thursday. "It's like sitting on a porch."

The installation is fenced off during construction, but it will be open to the public as of Canada Day.

For drivers or bus riders who rely on the route and might shake their heads at the closure, Nelms implores them to give the installation a chance.

"We've had 90-per-cent-plus positive feedback on the program," she said, noting the popularity of previous installations including the Urban Reef and Corduroy Road.

"I hope they would enjoy the flavour it brings to Robson Street. It's something different."

Viva Vancouver also runs programming on Granville Street, which was closed every weekend throughout the summer in previous years. But due to challenges in finding programming for that many days, the city is only closing the entire street for one weekend this year.

Called Granville Social, the street festival will take place on July 18 and 19.

Crews assemble Porch Parade at the 800 block of Robson Street, between Howe and Hornby streets, on Thursday.
JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO

FINANCE

B.C. health firings report to be released

British Columbia's Ministry of Finance says the release of a report into the controversial firings and suspensions of government health researchers is imminent.

The ministry says the release of the comptroller general's report is now possible because the Mounties say they no longer require its information.

Premier Christy Clark said earlier this month that a 2013 email from the RCMP to the Finance Ministry confirmed an investigation was underway.

But the RCMP never confirmed an investigation and recent freedom-of-information documents revealed police were waiting for government information about the case, which never came.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

BACKGROUND

The workers who were part of a drug-research grant program were fired in September 2012 amid allegations of inappropriate and possibly criminal conduct, but media reports later showed the RCMP never investigated the claims.

IN BRIEF

'Cannabis Day' to proceed despite warning: Emery

Marijuana activist Jodie Emery is vowing to proceed with an annual Canada Day pot protest outside the Vancouver Art Gallery, despite a cease-and-desist letter from the city.

Emery says "Cannabis Day" has been held for nearly 20 years and typically attracts about 10,000 people who sell, buy and smoke illegal marijuana in the public square.

But she says she and her husband, Marc Emery, received a letter from the deputy city manager earlier this month telling them to stop planning the event because they don't have a permit. THE CANADIAN PRESS

COURT

Ex-paramedic gets jail for dope scheme

A former paramedic who lost everything to drug use has been sentenced to six months in jail.

Adam Duhamel, 34, must also serve nine months' probation.

He pleaded guilty in B.C. Supreme Court to two counts of drug trafficking.

Justice Ian Meiklem said Duhamel's involvement in a dial-a-dope operation was obvious and that he had no plan to immediately go into drug treatment to be let out of jail.

He'd served 75 days behind bars awaiting sentencing.

Duhamel's defence lawyer, Jeremy Knight, read a letter at the sentencing hearing from Duhamel's father, saying his son's happy childhood was stained by repeated concussions and bullying.

As a paramedic, his father said, Duhamel suffered post-traumatic stress disorder after he was unable to revive a dying infant. He was also diagnosed with mental-health issues.

Duhamel's drug use contributed to his losing a home in Williams Lake, along with his wife and two children, Knight said.

Crown lawyer Anthony Varesi had argued for a nine-month sentence.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

ENERGY

B.C. asked to address pipeline conditions

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

The Living Oceans Society and Ecojustice have filed a motion with the National Energy Board (NEB) asking it to compel British Columbia to answer questions about its five conditions for pipeline approval.

The Liberal government has long maintained it won't sanction the proposed Enbridge Northern Gateway or Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain pipeline projects without five conditions being met first: Successful completion of the environmental assessment process, world-leading marine and terrestrial spill response and recovery plans, addressing aboriginal concerns, and providing B.C. with a fair share of benefits.

Both the government and the Living Oceans Society are intervenors in the ongoing NEB hearings into the Trans Mountain expansion project, currently in a phase that allows participants to ask questions about the evidence filed by intervenors.

While the B.C. government hasn't filed any evidence, Living Oceans Society executive director Karen Wristen wants to be able to probe the government about the conditions.

"What we're hoping to hear is what B.C. feels has been accomplished (by Kinder Morgan) towards meeting the five conditions," said Wristen.

Specifically, Wristen wants the government to explain how costs and benefits are being weighed by the province, which did not conduct its own environmental assessment of the project.

The motion was filed on June 22.

The proposed $5-billion expansion would nearly triple the capacity of the pipeline that carries crude oil from near Edmonton to the Vancouver area to be loaded on tankers.
WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Urban escapes: outdoor pools

The unseasonably warm weather in Vancouver has many heading to the city's outdoor public swimming pools, some of the most incredible aquatic facilities in the country.

AMY LOGAN/FOR METRO

Kits Pool draws a huge crowd on sunny days. The grassy, treed area is a popular place for a picnic.

A goggled swimmer at Second Beach Pool surveys the scene.

Vancouver has some great outdoor swimming: From the industrial chic of New Brighton Pool with its backdrop of factories and shipping containers; to the family-friendly shallows and animal-shaped slides at Second Beach Pool bordered by tall trees on one side and ocean on the other; to the spectacular beauty of Kitsilano Pool, a blue jewel perched beside the ocean, with its mix of serious athletes and casual paddlers soaking up the view. Each has a slightly different mood and clientele, offering the perfect escape on a hot summer day or sultry night, and transforming the city into something magical.

The serenity of a last lap in the last of the light at Kits Pool.

Detail: cement piers.

Children play poolside at New Brighton Pool.

Kids love the giant turtle slide at Second Beach Pool.

Detail: pool lockers.

THREE OUTDOOR POOLS TO EXPLORE

Kitsilano Pool
(2305 Cornwall St.)
Built in 1931, Kits Pool is the longest outdoor pool in Canada at 137 metres (almost times the length of an Olympic pool.) It is also the only heated salt-water pool in the city and features swimming lanes, a shallow play area, and a slide.

New Brighton Pool
(North Windemere St., in New Brighton Park)
Located in the Sunrise neighbourhood, New Brighton is heated, and has a sloped entry for small children, as well as swimming lanes. A cafe and a park with beach access are also adjacent.

Second Beach Pool
(Stanley Park Dr., beside Second Beach)
Take a walk or ride the Seawall around Stanley Park, stop for a snack at the canteen, and then have a swim at Second Beach Pool. You can even rent a towel if you come unprepared. Lots of slides and a large shallow area kids, and a smaller lane section for serious swimmers.

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HUDSON'S BAY

FUNDRAISING

HarperPAC 'matter of self-preservation'

It's hardly a surprise to see political organizers on the right side of the political spectrum pushing back against union-financed third-party groups on the left, says a former adviser to Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Tom Flanagan, a retired University of Calgary political science professor, said he's hopeful that HarperPAC, the newest entry, will help to offset the pre-writ advertising efforts of its left-leaning counterparts.

"I think it is a matter of self-preservation for the Conservatives to be able to fight back," Flanagan said Wednesday.

HarperPAC, the brainchild of a team of Conservatives, launched earlier this week with an appeal for help from politically-minded Canadians who support Conservative values.

> **(Canadian PACs) aren't going to get big bucks.**
> Tom Flanagan

Former chief electoral officer Jean-Pierre Kingsley fears Canada is going down a path similar to the U.S., where political action committees, or PACs, raise untold amounts of money to influence political outcomes.

Flanagan said he doesn't believe that PACs in Canada will ever reach the scales they have in the U.S.

Their Canadian counterparts "aren't going to get big bucks," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

We must join dairy, poultry deal: PM

Prime Minister Stephen Harper says Canada will defend its supply management system for dairy and poultry while still pursuing one of the biggest trade deals in history.

Harper made the comments after a government spokesman denied a report suggesting the Trans-Pacific Partnership could destabilize the system that governs how dairy products and poultry are sold in Canada.

"I believe these negotiations are going to establish what will become the basis of the international trading network in the Asia Pacific. It is essential in my view that Canada be part of that," the prime minister told a news conference Thursday.

"At the same time, we are working to protect our system of supply management and our farmers in other sectors."

A Globe and Mail report quoted unidentified officials as saying Harper is resolved to sign the TPP even if it means a surge in imports of duty-free poultry and dairy products.

American negotiators want to pry open the tightly controlled Canadian dairy system that offers protection for the domestic industry, but results in higher prices at the grocery store and fewer foreign offerings.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Complaints about English result in online threats

The mayor of a predominantly francophone city near Montreal says she won't be bullied after receiving threats over online comments she made about an opposition politician using English during council meetings.

Caroline St-Hilaire posted on Facebook Thursday that she's received more than 800 Facebook comments related to a June 23 post complaining about the use of English during Longueuil council meetings.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

New baby girl was part of takeout at restaurant

A restaurant manager in Saskatoon delivered more than just food after a customer went into labour.

Staff at Montana's say a couple came into the eatery Wednesday night to pick up a takeout order and the woman went into labour.

The manager on duty helped deliver a baby girl and paramedics arrived to cut the umbilical cord. The couple says they are probably going to name the baby Montana.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Disgraced former Conservative politician Dean Del Mastro, 44, accompanied by his wife Kelly, speaks to reporters outside court in Peterborough, Ont., on Thursday. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ex-Tory MP jailed for campaign fraud

ELECTION LAW

Del Mastro to serve month's term, can't run for office

A former member of Parliament who spoke for Prime Minister Stephen Harper when it came to electoral-fraud allegations was sentenced Thursday to one month in jail and barred from running for office for five years for cheating during an election campaign.

Dean Del Mastro deliberately broke spending rules then tried to cover up his crime, said Superior Court Justice Lisa Cameron, who ruled that incarceration was appropriate for the first-time offender.

"He was prepared not only to break the rules but to be deceitful about it," Cameron said. "This type of cheating and lying will result in serious sanctions."

Cameron convicted the former Conservative MP for Peterborough last fall of violating the Canada Elections Act during the 2008 federal election.

> **This type of cheating ... will result in serious sanctions.**
> Justice Lisa Cameron

She found he had knowingly exceeded spending limits, failed to report a personal contribution of $21,000 to his campaign, and submitted a falsified document.

Del Mastro, 44, has already filed an appeal of the conviction and was to apply for bail at a hearing Friday.

He was led away for processing before being taken to a jail in nearby Lindsay.

Once Harper's point man defending the Tories against allegations of electoral fraud, Del Mastro has maintained his innocence.

Del Mastro resigned his Peterborough seat in the House of Commons, where he had been sitting as an Independent since being charged, shortly after his conviction.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SLOW RESPONSES

Access to information may take years

It's been said the wheels of justice turn slowly, and a new look at Canada's creaky access-to-information system appears to bear that out.

According to data collected as part of a Liberal question in the House of Commons, Justice Canada is the federal department with the longest running, active access-to-information request — an unfulfilled inquiry that dates back more than six years.

Under the Access to Information Act passed by Parliament, departments are supposed to respond to requests for government records within 30 days, although in practice long delays have become routine.

Liberal MP David McGuinty placed a question on the House of Commons order paper seeking a list of the five oldest access requests in each government department, agency and commission.

The results are a blast from the past.

Justice Canada, with two outstanding requests from 2009, including one from Jan. 23 that year, was the lead laggard — but hardly alone in having a docket of very slow responses.

Environment Canada, Finance, Health, Public Works, Parks Canada and the Privy Council Office all show active access requests dating back to 2010.

"My first reaction was: information delayed is information denied," McGuinty said.

"The length — some of these going back as far as six years, almost seven years — it's laughable."

Combined with rampant redactions of material when it is finally released, McGuinty said the system is being used to suppress information rather than access it.

That's simply not the case, countered Stephanie Rea, a spokeswoman in the office of Treasury Board President Tony Clement, who oversees the access system.

"The overall trend is that the access-to-information program is managing increased demands for access to information well," Rea said in an email.

She pointed to a nine per cent increase in requests in 2013-14, with 61 per cent of all information requests completed within 30 days.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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NEW JERSEY

Family flees, sues after creepy letters

A couple who says they were scared away from their new $1.4 million US home because of creepy letters from a stalker has sued the sellers for not telling them about a person with a "mentally disturbed fixation" on the house.

Derek and Maria Broaddus said the former owners of the home in Westfield, New Jersey, west of New York City, should have warned them of the person who signs the letters as "The Watcher."

The letter writer claims to have been controlling the house for two decades and that former owners John and Andrea Woods sold it because "it was their time to move on and kindly sold it when I asked them to," according to the lawsuit filed this month.

"Do you need to fill the house with the young blood I requested?" one letter reads, according to the suit. "Once I know their names I will call to them and draw them too (sic) me."

The lawsuit also names an insurance company and settlement company as defendants. Officials from the companies didn't immediately return calls for comment.

The Broadduses say they would never have bought the house if the sellers had warned them about the letter writer. They are now attempting to re-sell the house "as they are unable to live in the home without extreme anxiety and fear for their children's safety and wellbeing," according to the lawsuit.

The suit says they are having a hard time selling because of the letters.

They want the former owners to refund them the purchase price and pay punitive damages.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Muslim comic Dean Obeidallah at a news conference in New York City on June 25. BEBETO MATTHEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Filmmakers sue over N.Y. subway ads

NEW YORK

Promotion for film showing Muslims as regular people

Two Muslim filmmakers have filed a lawsuit against the operator of New York subways claiming the agency rejected their advertisements under a rule that prohibits disputed political views. They argue the ads have nothing to do with politics.

In a lawsuit filed Thursday in Manhattan federal court, Negin Farsad and Dean Obeidallah claim the Metropolitan Transportation Authority is violating their First Amendment right to free speech. The two created the advertisements to help promote their 2013 film, "The Muslims Are Coming." They say the overall message of both the ads and the film is "that American Muslims are ordinary people."

Farsad and Obeidallah said they paid the MTA nearly $15,000 to run the ads, which they were told would be put up in 140 subway stations in April. When the ads didn't go up on the scheduled date, they called the MTA but didn't hear back for several days — until they were told the ads would violate a policy that went into effect in the interim, which bans ads that are "political in nature."

Glenn Katon, their attorney with the civil rights group Muslim Advocates, said the two "had a constitutional right to post the ads under the old policy."

MTA spokesman Adam Lisberg said the agency had not yet been served with the lawsuit.

The ads include, among others, the phrases: "The Ugly Truth About Muslims: Muslims have great frittata recipes" and "Muslims! They invented coffee, the toothbrush and algebra... Oh wait, sorry about the algebra. That's a year of class you'll never get back."

"It's comedic," Obeidallah said. "What's political about saying 'Muslims like frittatas' or have great frittata recipes?"

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WIKILEAKS

Leaks include the passport number of Hillary Clinton

WikiLeaks' publication of more than 60,000 Saudi documents has set pens racing across the Middle East with disclosures about the secretive Arab monarchy's foreign affairs. But lost amid the torrent of revelations are offbeat memos showing the underbelly of Riyadh's diplomacy, including candid accounts of booze runs and pork smuggling.

Among the revelations you may have missed:

It's illegal to drink, sell or possess alcohol in Saudi Arabia, which follows an ultraconservative interpretation of Islamic law, but foreign embassy staffers took advantage of their diplomatic immunity to go on liquor runs to neighbouring Bahrain, where the sale of alcohol is legal. Memos published by WikiLeaks describe their unsuccessful attempts to sneak the booze into the kingdom in amusing detail.

On Jan. 18, 2013, Saudi customs officials stopped a Mexican diplomat driving back from Bahrain with "several big suitcases" in his car trunk containing no fewer than 102 bottles of whisky and 48 cans of beer, according to one undated memo. On Feb. 2, 2012 an Azeri diplomat was stopped at customs with 28 bottles of whisky hidden in socks inside his car. That same day, customs officials stopped an Italian diplomat whose car had a taped-up hole cut into the back seat, according to two other Saudi memos.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in a press conference with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, March 31, 2012. BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

> **It proves the theory that Saudi foreign policy is at least in part sectarian and seeks to contain Shiism and not just Iran.**
>
> Toby Matthiesen, author and research fellow

Diplomats also sought to skirt Islam's prohibition of pork. A March 17, 2012 memo describes a Chinese diplomat's attempt to sneak 30 kilograms of ham into the kingdom in the trunk of his car.

It comes as no surprise that Sunni Saudi Arabia, which views Shiite Iran as its greatest regional rival, would take an interest in the spread of Shiite Islam. But some observations go into a startling level of minutiae.

Saudi diplomats are careful to estimate, for example, how many Eritrean students are studying abroad in Iran (40) and the number of Shiite Muslims in Mauritania (50,000). They were also concerned when a public debate was held between Shiite and Sunni Muslims near the Philippines' Al-Dahab mosque in Manila. Even though Shiites make up less than 1 per cent of the Muslim population in the Philippines, a memo dated Feb. 4, 2010 appears to express alarm that the religious minority's message "managed to get out of its secretive circle to the public."

"It is obsessive," said Toby Matthiesen, the author of a book about religious politics in Gulf Arab states and a research fellow at the University of Cambridge. "It proves the theory that Saudi foreign policy is at least in part sectarian and seeks to contain Shiism and not just Iran."

Among the torrent of private information leaked by the website is Hillary Rodham Clinton's passport number, included in a memo concerning a March 2012 visit to the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh.

WikiLeaks' trove of Saudi diplomatic documents includes a large amount of bureaucratic documentation and sensitive personal information, including sick leave reports, death certificates and hospital records.

One document included in the haul details a 17-year-old's treatment for life-threatening medical problems. Another is a report describing severe leg injuries suffered by a 24-year-old at King Khalid Hospital in northeastern Saudi Arabia.

A third describes the proposed treatment for a child with encephalopathy in the Czech Republic.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BACKGROUND

Riyadah likes leaks — as long as they are not Saudi

A memo addressed to a senior diplomat in 2011, several weeks after WikiLeaks released thousands of U.S. State Department cables, suggests the Saudis sifted through the American documents and read them too.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANCE

Trial on for baby killings

A French woman went on trial Thursday accused of suffocating eight of her newborns, after she told investigators that she feared they were children of a long, incestuous relationship with her father.

Dominique Cottrez, 51, stands accused of multiple counts of first-degree murder of minors. She faces life in prison if found guilty by a jury in the northern city of Douai.

The worst infanticide case in modern French history stunned the country when the bodies were discovered in and around the Cottrez' village home in 2010.

Cottrez, who has two grown daughters, told investigators that over more than a decade, she carried several babies to term and then killed them. Cottrez' obesity appeared to hide the pregnancies, which went unnoticed by her husband, children, neighbours, colleagues and even doctors at a nearby hospital.

Dozens of forensic and psychiatric experts, police investigators and witnesses, including her husband, daughters and siblings, are scheduled to testify.

A withdrawn, secretive nurse's aide, Cottrez told investigators she was raped by her father, first when she was eight and repeatedly through her childhood and teenage years, according to judicial documents. She later entered a long, incestuous relationship with him as an adult, including after she married, and said that it became consenting — and even said she was in love with her father more than she was with her husband.

Her father died in 2007.

One of the first witnesses called to the stand Thursday is Leonard Meriaux, who bought the Cottrez family house and discovered the first corpse in the garden in 2010. He called police, who found another in the garden and six more in the garage of the house.

Investigators soon turned their suspicions to Cottrez, who quickly confessed. She told the investigating judge that she had never used contraception or had an abortion because of a phobia of doctors. She also said she did not keep the babies because she was afraid that they were the results of her incestuous relations with her father. She said the killing had become a "means of contraception," according to the judicial documents. The verdict is expected next Thursday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EUROZONE

Greek debt bailout talks fail again

A key meeting of eurozone finance ministers broke up without agreement on Greece's rescue package on Thursday, intensifying doubts about whether Athens can make a crucial debt payment due in just a few days.

Lower-level negotiations will continue and a new meeting of eurozone finance ministers is tentatively scheduled for Saturday.

Finance ministers from the 19 nations using the euro currency failed to bridge differences over the kinds of reforms that Greece's radical left government must implement to qualify for billions in new loans.

It was the latest in a series of negotiating road blocks, and a major setback since there had been hopes to reach a deal in time for European leaders to approve it at a summit later in the day.

"Eurogroup back later, but not today," Finland's finance minister, Alexander Stubb, tweeted as the talks broke up.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Greek immigrant's children granted nationality

Greece has adopted legislation granting nationality to children of foreign nationals living in the country, provided they attend or have attended school in the country. Lawmakers approved the draft legislation Thursday, marking a rift in the country's governing coalition. The minority partner, the populist, right-wing Independent Greeks party rejected the bill submitted by the radical left Syriza party.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.K.

Racist machete attacker convicted

A man who attacked a Sikh trainee dentist with a machete in a racist assault intended as revenge for the slaying of a British soldier by Muslim extremists was convicted Thursday of attempted murder.

Zack Davies struck Sarandev Bhambra in the head with a 30-centimetre blade in a supermarket in Mold, Wales, in January. Witnesses said they heard Davies shout "white power" and "this is for Lee Rigby."

Rigby was run down with a car and stabbed to death in a London street in May 2013 by two men inspired by Islamic extremism.

A former soldier, Peter Fuller, managed to get between Davies and his victim and stop the attack.

Bhambra, 24, suffered what prosecutors called "life-changing" injuries.

Prosecutors said white supremacist material was found at Davies' home.

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TIM HORTONS

Eh-mojis celebrate Canada

Just in time for Canada Day, Tim Hortons has launched a Canadian "Eh-moji" keyboard in the iTunes App store featuring 12 symbols that any true hoser would be proud to text.

The free keyboard features Canuck symbols including a maple leaf, beaver, Muskoka chair, barbecue, heart-shaped flag, moose, toque, fireworks, Inukshuk, "Eh" in English, "Tsé" in French, and, of course, a Tim Hortons cup.

It is a smart bit of patriotic digital marketing, and the company also wants feedback as to what might be missing. Using the hashtag #textlikeaCanadian, the company would like people to suggest additions that will be added in software updates, starting on July 1.

Emojis — Tim's Canadianizes with an H as "Eh-moji" — are an evolution of the smiley, that electronic texters can add to their communications in place of words or for emphasis.

"As Canadians, we have a unique way of expressing ourselves," said Peter Nowlan, chief marketing officer at Tim Hortons.

"We set out to create a set of emojis that personified our great country by capturing some of the things that make us unique. and are recognized around the world, starting with the name of the keyboard itself."

Canadian Android users shouldn't feel left out for too long. The Android version hits the Google Play store on Monday, June 29. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The cooks of the Teppanyaki Grill at The Real Canadian Superstore located in Mississauga, Ont. Loblaws is tinkering with the idea of making shopping at discount Superstores feel like a premium experience, without the premium price.
CARLOS OSORIO/TORONTO STAR

Superstore revamps its food options

CONSUMERS

Loblaw-owned store aims to be a premium one-stop-shop

When it comes to discount grocery stores, saving money often means a warehouse setting, indifferent lighting and lacklustre fresh-food offerings.

Loblaw Companies Ltd., owner of various grocery and Shoppers Drug Mart stores across the country, is challenging that idea with a newly renovated pilot store in Mississauga, Ont., re-opening on Friday, bringing an elevated shopping experience to a Real Canadian Superstore.

"Retail is as much about evolution as anything. If you stay in any one place for too long, you'll be overtaken," said Andrew Iacobucci, president, discount division, Loblaw Cos. Ltd.

The Real Canadian Superstore at 3050 Argentia Rd. in Mississauga, renovated over six months, has a roasted nut and dried fruit counter; a wider variety of ingredients used in Middle Eastern and Asian cuisine; an aisle of rice in large-format sizes; and it carries Parle-G, a popular cookie manufactured in India. The move is meant to serve the area's growing diverse population.

In-store features in the newly renovated space include fresh seafood, fresh vegetables a full-service Teppanyaki Grill providing fresh sushi to customers, a pita bakery, cosmetics, a wine shop, a dry cleaner, a pharmacy, a doctor, a gym, an expanded Joe Fresh section, baby products, home wares and electronics.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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THE KOHLER REPORT: ON MAGICAL CONDOMS

Not until recently was there a product that could fall under the category of awkward technology.

We've all heard of good technology (penicillin), bad technology (automated checkout counters), but not until recently was there a product that could fall under the category of awkward technology.

Case in point: Three students from the U.K. won a top prize at the TeenTech Awards this week for a "smart" condom that changes colour or glows upon detection of a sexually transmitted infection. While the new prophylactic, cleverly named the S.T. EYE, would certainly be a boon for our physical health, my neurotic side has a lot of questions as to how this would actually play out. It's embarrassing enough when you're on a date and you realize you have something stuck in your teeth, imagine instead it's a disease stuck in your genitals.

Condoms are already one of the most awkward parts of having sex: from the look the woman at the pharmacy gives you when you buy them ("Getting lucky tonight, eh?"), to the impossibility of finding a place to keep them that doesn't look too organized or too much like you have no idea where a condom could be because it's been that long, to the dreaded moment of application, when for a few seconds the Jeopardy! tune starts playing. Now imagine the tune ending with Alex wryly announcing, "What is Chlamydia?"

Please note: while condoms are used by a plethora of people of many different sexual orientations, I will be using examples about heterosexuality, as that is what I know best. Okay, fine, it's all I know, I'm boring.

What would the parties to an already fraught encounter be thinking and feeling should one of these magical condoms indeed glow or change colour? While a Lord of the Rings fan might deduce that orcs are nearby, others might be more upset. The guy would be freaking out like, "Oh my God, what is it? Who was it? I guess that explains the tingling." And the girl would be like, "Would it be rude if I left right away, or should I pretend to cuddle for a while and sneak out when he's sleeping?"

It seems a titch unfair that testing only goes one way. Great, the girl knows the guy's clean, but who's testing the girl? There should be sensors on both sides of the latex, though by the time the guy found out the girl was packing a virus, it'd be a little late.

It's no surprise that the S.T. EYE was invented by a trio of 13- and 14-year-old science nerds. I'll wager none of them have yet encountered a condom, except maybe in health class, where, if their experience was anything like mine, they watched in an atmosphere of awkwardness and zero eye contact as their gym teacher unfurled, with disquieting competence, an expired Lifestyles onto an overripe banana. Should you ever find yourself in possession of an S.T. EYE, and you put one on a banana and the S.T. EYE changes colour, do not eat it. ("This tastes clappy.").

I'll admit this product could help a lot of people, especially hypochondriacs and sex workers. Safety in the workplace! But, let's face it, if a guy has chlamydia or gonorrhea, it might be a sign that he prefers to skip the condom. So remember, unless you're in a committed, blood-and-swab-tested relationship, "no condom" should glow just as bright to you as an S.T. EYE.

Rebecca Kohler is a standup comic, writer, actor, gymnast, lawyer and chemist. (Some of this isn't true.) Follow her on Twitter @becca_kohler

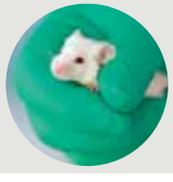
Happy face/Sad face

From **malicious monks** to a **letter of love**, Metro weighs in on the news making headlines this week

Clap for the power of science

After 50 years of failed science in this area, researchers at Harvard have hit on a promising experimental chlamydia vaccine — and figured out why the last one went so wrong. The study, using mice, showed that live bacteria are key to immunity. Even better news for the needle-phobic: the vaccine is a nasal spray. (It beats other STI-control methods we could name; see the Kohler Report above).

SOURCE: THE VERGE



Edmonton bachelor party gone bad

An Edmonton neighbourhood was stunned when 10 young men with nylons over their faces and brandishing (foam) baseball bats barged into a home and snatched the occupant. Six neighbours called the police, who responded with guns drawn and a chopper overhead. They chose not to lay charges against the men, who were guilty of "kidnapping" a groom for his bachelor party. SOURCE: VICE

Mock monks make a move for money

Buddhists in Ottawa are warning the public that panhandling is not a part of their faith. Stony-silent men with shaved heads, dressed in the flowing robes of Buddhist monks, have been accepting cash in exchange for trinkets from people downtown. It's "the easiest fraud you can to detect," said one local Buddhist. "If you give them money and they accept, then they are not monks." SOURCE: CBC.CA

Lovesick man makes a painterly plea

The Internet dissolved into tears this week after one man took to Weibo — a Chinese-language analog of Twitter — with a single, plaintive question: Does status matter if two people are in love? That's what the painter and decorator wrote in a viral letter to the disapproving mother of his university-educated girlfriend. No word yet on the mother's response, though it really should be positive: The young artist also promised not to borrow money. SOURCE: BBC.COM

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

Mother Canada is flashy, substance-free patriotism

Your thank-you card is in the mail, Parks Canada.

Without you — and the 10-storey statue you're proposing to help erect in a national park — I would have never known Mother Canada.

So this must be the motherland? Guess I missed that social studies lesson on sexist nationalist symbolism.

Silly, I know, but I would never have thought to memorialize our war dead buried abroad by building a statue of a giant woman.

And, you know, Mother Canada sure doesn't look like I'd expect.

She's a sombre figure, draped in a cloak, standing at the edge of the Atlantic with arms outstretched to welcome us all into her bosom. From what I know of women's war effort, it was a little more "welding in munitions factories." A little less "uselessly standing on a rock." I think they might have even worn pants.

But I get it now — she's an echo of more patriarchic times. Our answer to Mother Russia and American gargantuanism. Our knock-off Lady Liberty.

Definitely the best $60 million (in mostly private funds; more on that later) spent on veterans issues. Even better than the $700,000 the government has used to fight veterans upset over benefits delays.

You know, I've walked along Vimy Ridge, beneath the incredible monument where the original Mother Canada stands (also called Canada Bereft, a name notably lacking in femininity). But I don't remember her. I remember imagining the soldiers in that battle, and standing among rows of white tombstones in the green grass of a small cemetery nearby, one of many that dot the countryside.

France is a trek, so I can see why you'd want to bring Mother Canada closer (and bigger!) for all 35 million of us — by putting her in a national park on Cape Breton, population 147,000.

I have a little suggestion, though: Since we're so angsty about upping nationalistic pride, maybe we could do more to get people out to Remembrance Day ceremonies? I think they're less well attended these days than mac and cheese festivals.

Never mind the fact that Parks Canada's own employees argue that the monument violates the site's wilderness-zone designation, or the fact that Parks Canada gave $100,000 in public money to the organization behind the project. It's a good thing we're getting Godzilla — sorry, Mother Canada. Now I know that we Canadians really do go in for that flashy, substance-free patriotism stuff.

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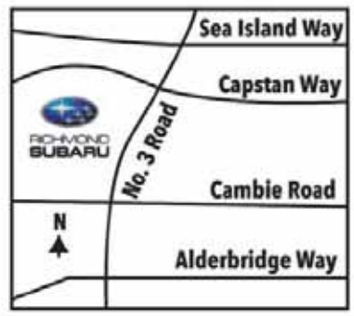

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Hollywood brings roles to bear

MOVIES

Ted isn't the first of his kind to grace the silver screen

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse

When John Bennett (Mark Walhberg) was a small, lonely child he wished for just one thing — a best friend. His wish came true and Ted (voice of Seth MacFarlane), his trusty teddy bear, came to life. The pair became "Thunder Buddies" for life and the subject of two movies, Ted and this weekend's Ted 2.

Ted isn't your usual teddy bear. He smokes pot, swears — imagine rooming with Tommy Chong and Charles Bukowski — and has trouble holding down a job.

In the new film, Ted is married to a human woman but under the eyes of the law he is seen as property and not a person. When the couple decides to adopt a child he faces a court battle helmed by a young lawyer (Amanda Seyfried) and a renowned, civil-rights attorney (Morgan Freeman).

Ted may be the rudest and crudest teddy bear to ever star in a movie, but there are loads of other talking teddies that are cool bears and not Teddy Bores. Remember Lancelot from Labyrinth, or the bear in AI: Artificial Intelligence — who tells the young robot that 50 years is not such a long time — and Winnie the Pooh?

Here are three more cinematic bear necessities:

"I'll never be like other people, but that's alright," says the star of the delightful Paddington, based on the much-loved children's books by Michael Bond, "because I'm a bear. A bear called Paddington."

The story of Paddington (voiced by Ben Whishaw) the cuddly, orphaned Peruvian bear picks up when he, armed only with a "worrying marmalade problem" and his distinctive red hat, lands at Paddington Station in London. There, a family adopts him and learns to love the little bear, even though chaos follows his every step. The film's co-star Hugh Bonneville says the Paddington character is so popular he is, "part of the DNA of the U.K."

The movie presents Paddington in his iconic blue duffel coat and red hat but not the usual Wellington Boots because they were not part of the bear's original design. Manufacturers added his red wellies so the toy teddies were able to stand upright.

As voiced by Ned Beatty, Lots-o'-Huggin' Bear is a Southern accented, strawberry scented teddy who looks cuddly, but is anything but. When a misunderstanding threatens to separate the toys, Woody (Tom Hanks), Buzz (Tim Allen), Jesse (Joan Cusack) and the gang take matters into their own tiny hands but when they meet the huggable but evil Lotso the garbage dump or the attic begin to look good.

"The guy may seem plush and huggable on the outside," says Buttercup the Unicorn, "but inside he's a monster." His habit of throwing toys that don't please him into "the box" is so evil he's even been compared to the wicked Governor on The Walking Dead.

Seth MacFarlane once again voices a foul-mouthed, pot-smoking bear in Ted 2. CONTRIBUTED

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

Ted 2 ★★★
Max ★
The Overnight ★★★★

HOW RATING WORKS	
★★★★	SEE IT
★★★	WORTHWHILE
★★	UP TO YOU
★	SKIP IT

Unlike Ted Fozzie the Bear doesn't work blue. The fuzzy brown jokester has been a big screen star since 1979's The Muppet Movie where he was discovered by Kermit the Frog doing stand-up comedy in a dive bar.

In the film Fozzie drives a Studebaker, but how, exactly, does a puppet manoeuvre a car? The film answers the question — "Where did you learn to drive?" Kermit asks. "I took a correspondence course!" — but the real answer is that the real driver hid in the trunk and drove the car by remote control, using a television monitor to guide his steering.

Amanda Seyfried co-stars in Ted 2. CONTRIBUTED

INTERVIEW

Amanda Seyfried is not one of those celebs

We spoke with Amanda Seyfried about Ted 2, getting over stage fright to do theatre, being bad at improv and embracing social media.

The Way We Get By is your first play. How has that gone?
It's really the most intensely fulfilling moment of my life, creatively and personally. I have incredible stage fright, so this made me feel like I've succeeded at something really big.

It also seems like improvising with Seth MacFarlane and Mark Wahlberg might be difficult. Did you have to do much riffing?
I ad-lib but I don't improvise. I'm not great at improv-ing. My brain doesn't work that fast. Mark and Seth are really good at it, and they're both really smart, and they have a great dynamic. They can riff off each other. ... But I can't do that. I'm terrible at it.

This is your second film with Seth MacFarlane. What was your first meeting like?
He was a little shy at first. I'm very outspoken. I'm a little unfiltered and I say things to get a reaction, sometimes, when I'm nervous. I definitely said one thing, and his ears perked up and he said, "What?" I can't really say what it was. I always, unconsciously or consciously, try to disarm people a little bit.

What do people tend to assume about you?
I notice that people just assume I'm going to be an a—hole ... Do you know how many f—ing flight attendants have said to me — I'm sure this happens all the time to many people — they say, "You're actually really nice! I can't believe how nice you are!" Their expectations are just so low sometimes.

Still, you have a fairly goofy Instagram. Were you reluctant to go on social media?
I was so against it. I don't want people to know more about me. But if you actually get a platform like that, you can promote anything you want, and people are going to listen. I meet a lot of my fans, especially now that I'm doing stage.

MATT PRIGGE/METRO IN NEW YORK

Mark Wahlberg stars in Ted 2, his first-ever sequel film. According to Wahlberg, he was most attracted to the idea of changing the film's dynamic while also working with his good friend and director Seth MacFarlane. GETTY IMAGES

Marky Mark on his first time

TED SEQUEL

Wahlberg says he'll only do sequels if they feel 'different'

Matt Prigge
Metro | New York City

Mark Wahlberg doesn't do sequels. There's been talk of a second Italian Job, a second Four Brothers and even a follow-up to The Fighter that follows other boxers. But so far nothing has materialized, in part because he's picky. And yet here's Ted 2, his first sequel and a fairly different film than 2011's Ted, in which he played the owner-friend of a magically sentient talking bear, voiced by co-writer and director Seth MacFarlane.

"It was only worth doing it if we could make it better than the first. It had to be its own thing," responds Wahlberg over the phone from the film's London junket. "When people talk about sequels I always just shrug it off. If they develop a script I'll take a look at it. I always want to do something different and change the dynamic."

Part of that had to do with getting another chance to riff and hang out with MacFarlane. "Seth and I really have a lot in common. We have a knowledge of old, old television from the '70s and '80s," he explains.

That's one reason they're comfortable together onscreen, though it's not as ad-lib-heavy as it may seem. "We play around a lot, but the writers are so good you don't need to improv so much. You might find yourself in a scene where you need to interject life into it. But it's not as necessary as it is in other situations."

MacFarlane's reputation for shocking and offending people is very much in play in Ted 2, which includes race and gay jokes, plus one about Charlie Hebdo. Wahlberg doesn't really think about those kinds of responses when saying them.

"It's one of those things where we shoot it, put it in front of an audience and see how people respond," he explains. "He doesn't like to be censored, to be sure."

Wahlberg doesn't even get shaken by the Ted films' most challenging aspect: believably conversing with a CGI talking teddy bear. MacFarlane riffs with Wahlberg while standing around where the camera is, while his co-star stares down at what will later be a special effect.

"I feel like he's real. And if I believe it, I feel I can convince an audience," Wahlberg says of his methodology. "That's what Seth wants and that's the only thing I want to do: we want to make it real. We want to make it look real. Not make a joke of it and wink at the audience."

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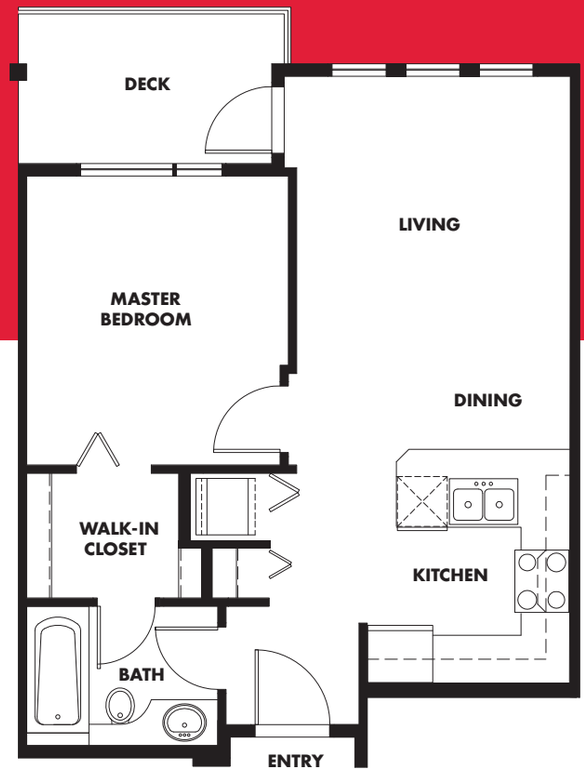

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In the world of food, Seth MacFarlane could be cilantro: you either love it, hate it — like Julia Child did — or are allergic to it.

There are some things that I'm incapable of understanding: buying new jeans that are already ripped; city cyclists who wear fingerless biking gloves for their five-kilometre commute; and when people mispronounce mascarpone as "marscapone."

Other things, however, are more contentious. Take Seth MacFarlane. On one hand, he was instrumental in rebooting the original Carl Sagan Cosmos with Neil deGrasse Tyson. On the other, he's responsible for that song about boobs, which he performed while hosting the 2013 Academy Awards.

Then there's Family Guy, the cartoon for adults created by MacFarlane. I've never watched an episode. Hearing people conduct lengthy conversations during the show's height in the early 2000s as either Stewie, the talking baby, or Brian, the talking dog, was all the Family Guy I could handle.

Yes, it's unfair to judge a sitcom by its annoying fans. It's also unfair, my boyfriend Simon told me, to make your partner watch Ted, the 2012 feature film MacFarlane wrote and directed about Bostonian John Bennett (Mark Wahlberg) and his best friend Ted, a CGI teddy bear (voiced by MacFarlane) who teaches John to be a better human.

Their weed-fuelled bromance will continue on Friday when the sequel hits theatres. Ted 2 focuses more on its title character, who is married and wants to have a baby. Biology requires that Ted ask John to be his sperm donor. John agrees. But for Ted to have legal custody of the baby, the teddy must prove he is human.

THE FILM: TED 2

THE FOOD: 7 INGREDIENT SALSA

In the world of food, MacFarlane could be cilantro: you either love it, hate it — like Julia Child did — or are allergic to it. But few are indifferent.

Although food writer Harold McGee says cilantro is "the world's most widely consumed fresh herb," it's never really caught on in Europe or the Mediterranean where many say it tastes "soapy." No wonder: McGee writes that "the same or similar aldehydes" found in cilantro "are also found in soaps and lotions and the bug family of insects."

Cilantro haters voice their disgust on websites, blogs and Facebook pages, including one called I Hate Cilantro, which has 16,000 followers and is categorized as a political group. The lovers, including Simon, use it creatively: he once suggested I put it in a batch of ice pops.

I didn't, but it's a necessary ingredient in my seven-ingredient salsa, which a friend's father taught me how to make. Blitz a can of drained plum tomatoes, a red onion, a jalapeno, garlic clove, juice of a lime, a generous pinch of salt and big handful of cilantro in a food processor. It's so good that I can't recall the last time I bought jarred salsa.

I do remember, however, the last trailer that I laughed out loud watching. For better or worse, it was Ted 2.

Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV's The Social.

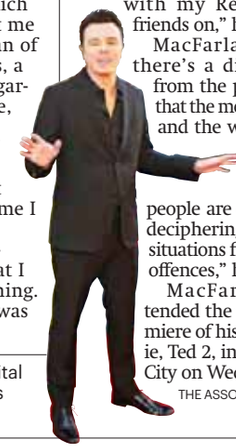
COMEDY

MacFarlane hasn't lost his edge

Family Guy creator Seth MacFarlane dismisses the notion that comedy has become more politically correct these days. Instead, he blames some members of the press for exaggerating the situation.

"They are screaming that everyone else is angry when they're not," MacFarlane said. "I don't buy it. I don't think it's real."

"This is the only thing I agree with my Republican friends on," he added.



MacFarlane feels there's a disconnect from the perception that the media creates and the way people actually think.

"Most people are capable of deciphering comedic situations from actual offences," he said.

MacFarlane attended the world premiere of his new movie, Ted 2, in New York City on Wednesday.

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A not-so-innocent invite

SEX COMEDY

Adam Scott talks about baring it all in The Overnight

Steve Gow
For Metro

In The Overnight, what starts as a dinner party deviates after the kids go to bed. CONTRIBUTED

Adam Scott has a few helpful words for young parents learning to make new friends in modern suburbia.

"Don't take your pants off before you're ready would be my advice," said the star of TV's Parks & Recreation in a recent interview in Toronto.

While that seems like an offbeat metaphor, it also would've been a practical pointer for Scott's character in The Overnight — a new sex comedy in which he and his on-screen wife (Taylor Schilling of Orange Is The New Black) attend a seemingly innocuous dinner party only to find their mysterious new neighbours have other plans.

As the evening unfolds, the couple is soon caught up in a nightmare that has them evaluating their sexual mores and pondering their predictable marriage.

"I did relate to it in a lot of ways," said Scott, who is married with two children himself.

> **Don't take your pants off before you're ready.**
> Adam Scott

"Taylor's and my character, we are happy (and) they love each other very much. It's just their position with each other and the position of their relationship gets a little unmoored. And all you need is to be unmoored a little bit to start questioning everything."

For Scott's character, that meant facing not only a few homoerotic impulses but a rather intimate inadequacy that has gathered a lot of media attention since the movie premiered at the Sundance Film Fest.

Indeed, Scott knew donning a diminutive penis prosthetic on-camera would be shocking, but he never thought he'd have to discuss it at such length.

"I was on this HBO show Tell Me You Love Me and we had prosthetic penises on that so I talked about it a bit then," laughed Scott. "But I had no idea what I was in for."

As painful as shooting those "nude" scenes must have been, they pale in comparison to the overall suspense of the story. After all, sophomore filmmaker Patrick Brice has said he aimed to shape the swinger comedy into a nail-biting thriller.

"A friend of mine said it's like a horror movie where sex is the monster and I completely agree with that," said Scott. "We've had screenings where people are yelling at the screen, just like a horror movie."

SCOTT SAYS

Learning from the best
Although his most famous work is in TV's Parks & Recreation and cult-hit Party Down, Scott says it wasn't until he starred opposite Will Ferrell in 2008's Step Brothers that he found his comedy mojo.

"I was mostly doing dramatic stuff," admitted Scott. "So it was really hard. But if you're going to learn (comedy) anywhere, it may as well be with those guys. They're the coolest!"

Director's chair
Backing the film as a producer, Scott hopes he can someday make the jump into directing as well but its something he isn't rushing. "I want it to be the right thing," said Scott. "If you make one movie and it's not good, then chances are, you aren't going to get that chance again."

On being uncomfortable
"When I read it, I thought this is very uncomfortable for me — not just the physical stuff but the emotional stuff was creepy," said Scott. STEVE GOW

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JOSH LAWSON

Aussie director talks pushing boundaries in The Little Death

Ned Ehrbar
Metro | Life

The sex files

Josh Lawson and Bojana Novakovic in The Little Death, a comedy about five couples' complicated sex lives. CONTRIBUTED

Australian director Josh Lawson's debut, The Little Death, delves into the sex lives of five Sydney couples and the comic consequences that arise from lovers clumsily admitting their secret desires to each other. One storyline in particular has been getting the bulk of the attention, though.

Are any of these storylines based in truth in any way?
In fact, the rape fantasy was where it all started, and it came from a confession — or admission, really. Confession makes it sound like she's done something wrong, and there's certainly nothing wrong with having a rape fantasy. But it was at a dinner party many, many years ago. You know, we'd had a few glasses of wine and the subject came up, and this girl said it was a fantasy of hers. I was so fascinated by it.

Was that something you'd ever come across before?
I certainly knew of rape fantasies, but I'd never really spoken with anyone with such candour about it. I just really felt there was something in it. I really felt like I'd never seen something like that explored on film, and when I researched that fetish, other fetishes sort of came up. And the more fetishes came up, the more I realized there was just so much to it — the world of fetishism and kinks.

It does seem to persist being a source of real shame for people, though.
It's well-observed. I really was fascinated at what point in any relationship you tell someone, "Hey, I'm really into this." I mean, we all do it in our own way. But yeah, I think sex is that last taboo subject in a lot of ways. There is a lot of shame associated with it, there's fear associated with it.

> **"I think sex is that last taboo subject in a lot of ways.**
> Josh Lawson

Do you have a favourite of the couples, as a writer?
I love them all, I really do. I'll say this, there was one story that has met with a lot of resistance in terms of funding for a long, long time, but I'm proud of the achievement and the actors. The first one is the rape story. People always contest that we're making jokes about rape, but I don't think that we are. I think it's because there's the issue of rape in a comedy, but the comedy never comes from us making fun of it or treating it lightly. I understand where the controversy is coming from, but I refute it, obviously.

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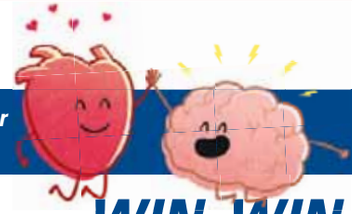

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Lauren Graham, left, with her Max co-star Josh Wiggins, and Carlos the dog (inset). CONTRIBUTED

Living a dog's life to the Max

FAMILY ADVENTURE

Lauren Graham talks working with kids and canine co-stars

Ned Ehrbar
Metro | Life

There's an old show business adage about never working with children or animals. The comment is usually incorrectly attributed to W.C. Fields, but no matter who coined the phrase, Lauren Graham clearly hasn't taken it to heart.

For her latest film, Max, about a military dog with PTSD that goes to live with the Texas family of its fallen trainer, Graham supports both a teenage co-star and a four-legged one. Yet, that doesn't mean she had any hesitations about the project.

"I've worked with a lot dogs — and a lot of kids," Graham says with a laugh. "You just know what to expect. It's another element of slight unknown, and a little bit of restriction in a way, because you can't just do whatever you want. You have to kind of be there for the animal or for the child. But that's OK."

In fact, that difference in the filmmaking environment can be a welcome change, Graham explains. "In a way it just kind of defines the world you're working in. And these dogs were incredibly well-trained, and for the most part they want to be working and they want to be rewarded for completing these tasks, so it was just kind of amazing to watch them," she says.

"They all live together with the same trainer, and they're all rescue dogs. They are friends, the dogs. They get along really well."

Best known for her work on television in both Gilmore Girls and Parenthood, some could argue that Graham is becoming something of an expert in playing characters who grapple with moody teenagers.

But Graham takes slight issue with that. "Well, on Gilmore Girls she wasn't so much moody when she was a teenager," she points out. "But they don't make enough movies about non-moody teenagers. I think that may be due to the fact that most of them are moody."

This film's moody teen is younger son Justin — played by Hellion star Josh Wiggins — a mopey hacker who sells pirated video games and shirks responsibility until his older brother's death in Afghanistan shakes up the family.

"He felt like a different kind of actor to me," Graham says of Wiggins. "And this was such a different world to play this family who are in Texas and the military is a very big part of their lives, so it felt like a different challenge."

> **"You can't just do whatever you want, you have to kind of be there for the animal or for the child**
> Lauren Graham

Perez Hilton, left, will star as Full House dad Danny Tanner in the musical based on the television classic. PHOTO ILLUSTRATION METRO

Strange but true, that Perez is in the House

MUSICAL COMEDY

Gossip blogger to play the dad in Full House The Musical

Richard Crouse
Metro | Life

When most people of think of Perez Hilton they think of his blog PerezHilton.com, a gossip site that last year was ranked 1,234th most trafficked website on the Internet.

If Perez has his way, however, you'll start thinking of him as a musical comedy star. The Tisch School of the Arts graduate is set to star in National Lampoon's Full House The Musical! A Tanner Family Parody! at Toronto's Randolph Theatre for a limited run before the show moves to New York in September.

Hilton found out about the show, fittingly enough, on the internet. A friend posted a notice about the musical on his Facebook page. "I left a comment saying, 'I need to be involved. I need to be in this show,'" he says. "I even joked I would be Mary Kate and Ashley. One of the creators, Tobly (McSmith), said, 'Is Perez serious?'"

He was serious, but the show isn't. Featuring tunes like This House is Too Full and Our Family is Better Than Your Family, the musical shows what happens when, "something happens where (Danny) loses his ability to give 'dad' speeches and all hell breaks loose."

The show will "both celebrate and skewer the source material," he says. "In this one not only am I playing the family patriarch Danny Tanner, but I'm also playing Bob Saget. So we satirize the show and incorporate elements of these actor's lives that we know and love."

Hilton hopes people will accept him as Danny Tanner. "It may be hard for people to forget about Perez Hilton at the beginning but hopefully as the show goes on they kind of lose themselves in the experience and start to see me as the characters I play in this show."

LET ME ENTERTAIN YOU

Papa Perez has a grand plan

Over the past year and a half, Hilton has acted in Sharknado 2 and Hot in Cleveland, and has a starring role in the upcoming horror film Most Likely to Die. He says his goal is to have a long career "doing many different things" as a general entertainer, like the late Joan Rivers.

Now a father of a two-year-old and a newborn, he jokes he's too old for late-night parties like last weekend's Much Music Video Awards, which he used to frequent. But he does love living in New York City. "I do so much with my kids, because there's so much to do and it's so easy to do it." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Now playing

ACTION & ADVENTURE

Max

Director: Boaz Yakin
Starring: Jay Hernandez

A military dog is adopted by his late handler's family.

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COMEDY

Ted 2

Director: Seth MacFarlane
Starring: Mark Wahlberg

Ted has to prove he's a person in a court of law.

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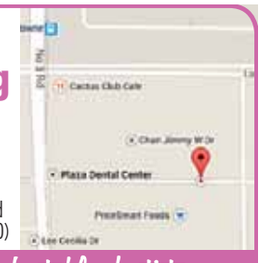

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Workout wear for the fashion crowd

TREND

Healthgoth trend started by an out-of-shape DJ

With a nightlife entourage, Chicago's Johnny Love and his crew have helped propel a fitness subculture movement that's become known as healthgoth.

With their tattoos, piercings, coloured hair and black mesh workout gear, the healthgoth followers don't fit the traditional gym rat mode.

The success of Love's viral Healthgoth Manifesto video on YouTube and his underground parties have brought him international fame. He toured his pop-up gym installations, making stops across America from Chicago to Austin for SXSW to Toronto (Love's Soft Leather dance party recently touched down in the city). Love and his posse walk participants through a series of exercises from his three-day free-weights routine, while DJs keep the energy levels up.

It all started when, going into his early 30s, Love had been on tour for months when he noticed things happening to his body.

"It was a gradual progress of my own fattening up with my face getting rounder and I looked really soft," he said.

He did what lots of people do when they need fitness advice and asked a more experienced friend for tips. Being on tour and not having a workout routine or gym membership, his options were limited but the weight loss solution he got was simple.

"You don't need a gym membership," said the friend, "just quit eating carbs. Start tomorrow." Love was incredulous — it worked.

Fashion-forward concert-goers Juan Solorzano and Jennifer Nguyen at Electric Island in Toronto. JESSE SHIP/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

His current routine is not unlike many others you might encounter at the gym.

"There's a chest and biceps day, back and triceps day, and leg and shoulders day. And if there's room, we do an abs routine," he said. "If you still have strength at the end of day three, you can do a last calf exercises until your legs are burning and its time to go home. If you're sore, then you're doing a good job."

The Healthgoth fashion esthetic emerged from the Internet, inspired by avant-garde designers like the Rick Owens and Alexander Wang. As the fitness trend has gone global, mainstream designers like Nike, Under Armour and Adidas are creating specialized lines to fill the growing "alternative" activewear niche.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

THE SHOPPING LIST

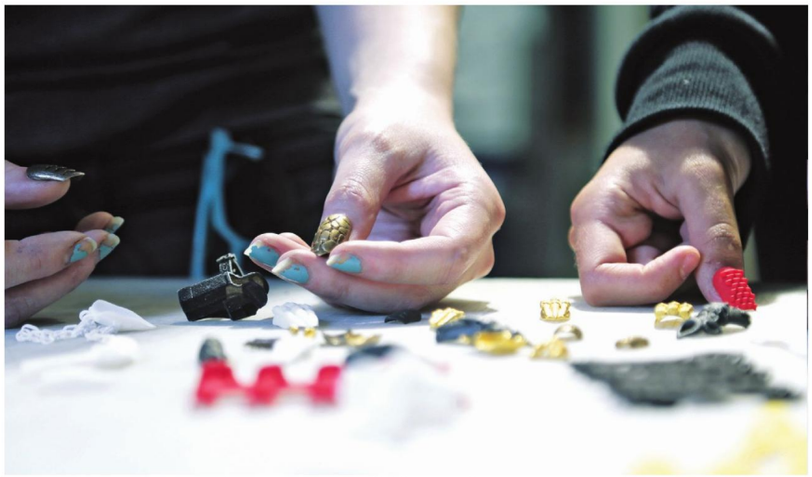
Animal print workout wear
Look for edgier lines of innovative mesh-heavy, tie-dyed and animal-print workout wear from brands like Lucas Hugh and Canadian labels Michi, Vancouver's Daub + Design and Toronto's Hoi Bo. While female-focused, some could complement a unisex look.

Haven (Havenshop.ca)
With their first brick and mortar shop in Edmonton and new spot on the Eastern edge of Gastown in Vancouver, Haven has Japanese avant-garde and sporty deep in their DNA, stocking limited runs of Junya Watanabe contemporary TAKAHIROMIYASHITA The Soloist's line, and oversized reflective running ponchos from Barbour & White Mountaineering and the latest collaborative designer supergroup, ACRONYM and Stone Island's Shadow Project.

Adidas Originals (Adidas.ca)
It's impossible to ignore the originator and first choice for healthgoth enthusiasts who covet collaborations with designers like Japan's Neighbourhood and London's Mary Katrantzou. Summer 2015's inflatable car tire-inspired Tubular sneaker collection may give Nike's Roshe Runs a run for their money.

Nomad (Nomadshop.net)
Incorporate the latest Fear of God tanks, Nike Tech Fleece shorts and Raf Simons Velcro sneakers into your training sessions thanks to Toronto's Queen West bastion of cutting edge menswear.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



New York-based Laser Girls creates futuristic fingernail art. Most sets are 3-D-printed in nylon, cost about $20 and can be worn multiple times. DORIAN GEIGER/THE TORONTO STAR

3-D nail art at your fingertips

3-D PRINTING

Entrepreneur develops a new kind of wearable tech

Not so long ago, Avery-Anne Gervais was flipping mobile home security cellphone applications as a door-to-door salesperson in Winnipeg. It was a far cry from the entrepreneur's lifelong dream of being a contestant on Dragons' Den.

Now, the 21-year-old is living in Shanghai, China, pulling the reigns of CLAWZ, her very own startup that bridges technology, fashion and art. Her product? Art for your fingernails made with a 3-D printer.

"If you want the Winnipeg Jets logo on your fingernails you stamp that on, or you want your high school emblem on there, or you want the letters of your name or the initials of all your best friends," said Gervais via Skype, from China.

Millennials — mainly women, including celebrities such as Katy Perry — have embraced nail art, transforming it from a fashion statement into a soaring trend. It's an age of mass experimentation, and now, with 3-D printing, the possibilities seem endless.

"Pick your size, your colour and the shape, and just print it off," added Gervais, who also owns a retro spray-tanning salon in Winnipeg. "So that was the dream — complete customization of whatever you wanted on your nails."

By 2018, 3-D printing is slated to be a $4.8-billion industry and the fashion world is looking to cash in.

Also known as rapid prototyping, 3-D printing uses different materials to build a three-dimensional model of an object layer by layer. Through the use of a computer-aided design (CAD) program, designs are created, dimensions are dictated and textures are explored.

Conventional nail art lasts for just a few days to upwards of a week or two. Unlike the shorter shelf life of typical nail art, CLAWZ is permanent, reusable, and texturized in greater detail. A 3-D printer prints out replicas of a set of nails in wax. These wax prototypes are cast into precious metals like black steel or silver, which, through a temporary adhesive that attaches to the nail, allows customers to self-decorate.

Gervais said CLAWZ targets young women aged 21 to 35 who get their nails done, and who perhaps consider themselves tech nerds.

"Women want to be integrated with technology and they love the idea that it's a 3-D printer. It becomes a conversation piece," she said.

In Canada — and North America in general — 3-D-printed fashion hasn't quite caught on yet, evidenced by CLAWZ launching in China, not at home.

Biying Miao, who co-founded Hot Pop Factory — a design firm specializing in 3-D printing and laser cutting in Toronto's design district — said that there is "more of a willingness to experiment" in China when it comes to fashion and design. In North America, 3-D nail art is even rarer than its exclusive pool of fashion designers using the technology.

Nina Huynh, 34, owner of Wow Wow Nails in Toronto, had never heard of 3-D printers being used to manufacture nail art. Huynh, who estimates she applies nail art to around 40 to 50 customers each week, was unsure what to think of the trend — if to call it that at all.

"It's definitely a cool concept," said Huynh, who browsed CLAWZ's website. "I don't know how much people are going to want this because it's going to be expensive and I don't think we're ready for it yet ... When it comes to nail art, we're a little bit behind."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

FASHION NOTES

CLAWZ out!

CLAWZ just pre-launched its product in China and is now marketing its soon-to-be-available summer line.

One is a set of black nails, texturized to mimic koi fish scales, and another, entitled, "A Girl's Best Friend," is gold matte with a black diamond in its centre. CLAWZ has another line, orbital in theme, which is inspired by different phases of the lunar cycle.

These cost anywhere from about $40 to $130 for a full set. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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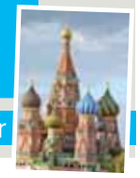

Coastline, seafood without the crowds

A squall rolls in from the Gulf of St. Lawrence along the Cabot Trail in Cape Breton Highlands National Park, N.S. JOHN LUMPKIN VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NOVA SCOTIA

Outdoor pursuits await visitors on Cabot Trail

Rounding a curve on the Cabot Trail, you see it: an elongated pile of granite jutting toward the Atlantic Ocean.

It's called Middle Head, and it's part of Cape Breton Highlands National Park on Nova Scotia's Cape Breton Island. The views from here are stunning, whether a sandy beach below or brooding Mount Smokey above.

At Middle Head's entrance is the 75-year-old Keltic Resort, which can serve as a well-appointed base camp for exploring the 950-sq.-km. national park and the Cabot Trail, a ring road.

Reminiscent of Ireland's formidable Ring of Kerry, Cabot Trail's 298-kilometre route clings to cliffs, plunges into deep native forests and connects small coastal communities whose heritage comes from French, Irish and British settlers, as well as the Mi'kmaq, the region's indigenous people.

Highway signs may be in French or Gaelic, as well as English.

Navigating sharp bends and steep descents, motorists can stop at numerous "look-offs" that may be safer than gawking through the windshield.

Birds are abundant, marine life can be observed during off-shore tours, and a moose or two may materialize.

One difference between the Ring of Kerry and its Canadian counterpart is the crowds.

Here, tour buses are rare and other traffic is light. Just make sure you know where gas stations are.

IF YOU GO

Check out Cheticamp, a French-Acadian fishing village; the Bell Museum in Baddeck; and Glenmora Distillery in Glenville.

For the peckish along the Cabot Trail, an extraordinary club sandwich is served at the unpretentious Seagull Restaurant near the Keltic Resort.

It is packed with chunks of locally caught lobster, smoked bacon and summer-fresh lettuce and tomato on crusty toast.

The chowder is prepared daily by the octogenarian owner and retired coal miner, John Dan Jobes. In his broth could be crab, scallops, salmon, mackerel, cod or halibut.

Up the highway is the Chowder House in Neil's Harbour, a fishing village with stacks of lobster traps on its wharfs.

Chowder House's 16 indoor picnic tables were crammed before noon on a weekday with offerings of lobster sandwiches, crab cakes and both clam and seafood chowder.

Its mussels could have been harvested that morning from Cape North near where explorers John and Sebastian Cabot were said to have landed in 1497.

Working up an appetite is not difficult. Hiking trails for different skill levels are plentiful throughout the national park, including more than a half-dozen near its entrance at Ingonish Beach.

One low-impact guided hike traverses the length of Middle Head through trees and patches of knapweed, elderberry and wild daisies to its tip for a 270-degree panorama of the ocean and faraway jagged shorelines.

Said to be among the world's top cycling destinations, Cape Breton Highlands has strategically placed campgrounds for longer Cabot Trail rides and several off-pavement trails.

The main lodge at Keltic Resort near Ingonish Beach, N.S. JOHN LUMPKIN VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Golf at internationally ranked Highland Links adjacent to Keltic Resort can be arduous, if you walk rather than ride in a motorized cart.

Highland Links' holes wind by the sea, twist through dense woodlands or border the Clyburn River. The trek from the first tee to the 18th green is 13 kilometres.

With what's left of the day, you could attend a "ceilidh" at a local parish hall where musicians gather to play or spend it in the Highland Sitting Room at Keltic, with ocean views, twin fireplaces and entertainers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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aeroplan

Think you know Canada, eh?

CANADA DAY

Quiz focuses on unique attractions countrywide

ON THE MOVE

Loren Christie

In honour of Canada's 148th birthday on Wednesday, let's celebrate our collective quirky side by testing your knowledge of our country's most bizarre and unique tourist destinations.

1. Cap-Egmont, P.E.I., is home to a collection of three buildings made from 25,000 recycled what?
a) Egg cartons
b) Bottles
c) Horseshoes

2. Every spring tens of thousands of snakes, the largest gathering in the world, emerge from their winter dens. Which province is home to this slithering frenzy of activity?
a) New Brunswick
b) Manitoba
c) British Columbia

3. The ferry service between these two cities is the oldest continually operational saltwater ferry service in North America.
a) Halifax-Dartmouth
b) Vancouver-Victoria
c) Ottawa-Montreal

4. This Vancouver Island town is home to world's largest hockey stick and puck.
a) Duncan
b) Nanaimo
c) Tofino

5. This province is home to The Myriad View, Canada's first legal moonshine producer.
a) Saskatchewan
b) Quebec
c) Prince Edward Island

6. Which province can lay claim to giant roadside attractions that include an apple, a nickel and a really large Canada goose?
a) Newfoundland
b) Ontario
c) Alberta

7. This island is the largest island in a freshwater lake in the world.
a) Miller's Island
b) St. Pierre and Miquelon
c) Manitoulin Island

8. This city has the most pubs per capita in Canada.
a) St. John's
b) Toronto
c) Halifax

9. True or false, the Ice Hotel, outside of Quebec City, is rebuilt every year from scratch.

10. Carl Lindley, a homesick U.S. soldier building the Alaska Highway, posted a sign post to his hometown in 1942. Today the Sign Post Forest in Watson Lake, Yukon, has how many signs from all over the world hammered to row upon row of posts?
a) 77,000
b) 7,700
c) 77

11. Which of the following festivals does not exist?
a) Nanaimo's World Championship Bathtub Race
b) The Great Klondike International Outhouse Race in Dawson City
c) The National Frog Jumping Championships in St. Pierre-Jolys, Man.

12. Alberta's Wood Buffalo National Park is home to the world's largest what? It's so big it can be seen from space.
a) beaver dam
b) eagle's nest
c) canoe

13. The Leifsburdir in Newfoundland is the only sod-covered restaurant in North America. It serves up traditional —— food.
a) Acadian
b) Viking
c) British

Answers:

1. b
2. b
3. a
4. a
5. c
6. b
7. c
8. c
9. True
10. a
11. Trick question — all exist
12. a
13. b

ISTOCK

TRAVEL NOTES KEY MAKEOVER AND BAJAN BARGAINS

Florida resort receives $2-million facelift

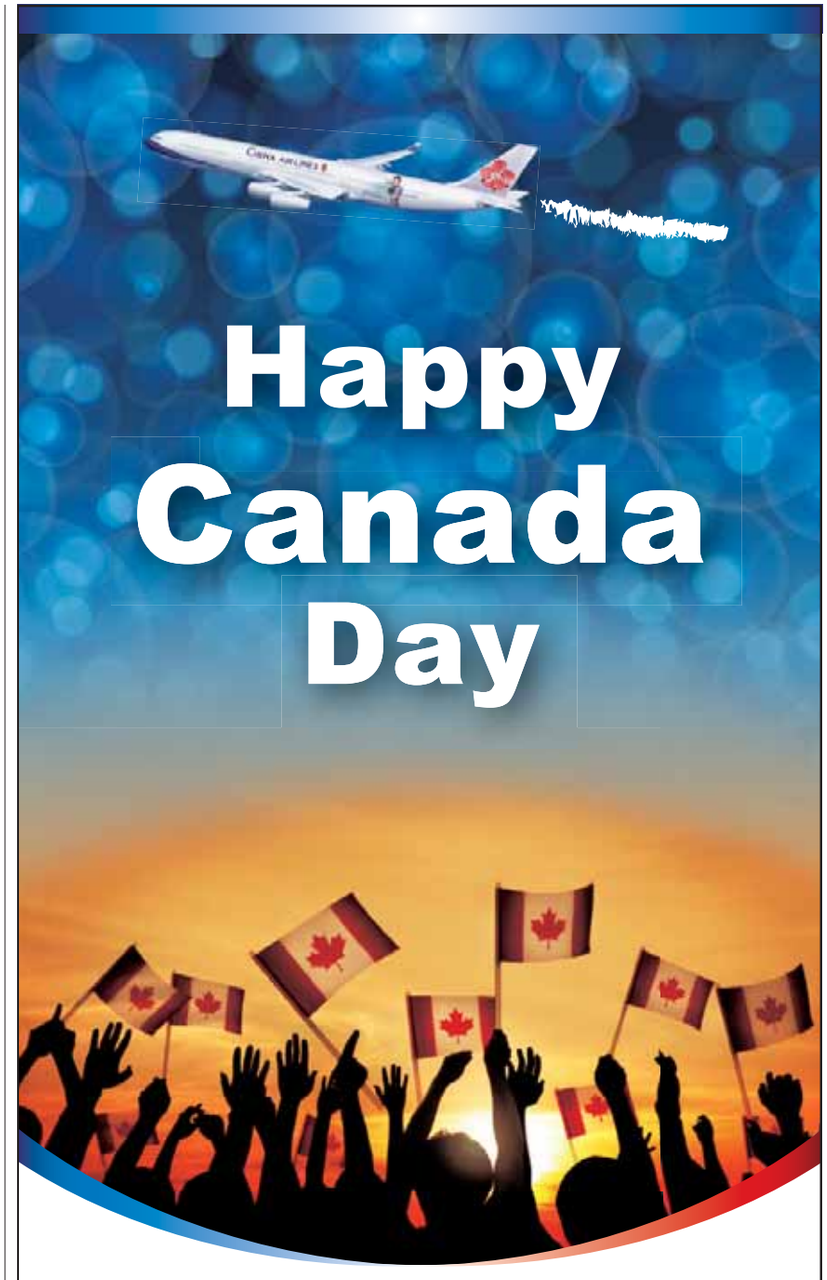
Hawks Cay, a quiet resort on Florida's Duck Key in the south end of the state, just finished a $22-million renovation, sprouting a new adults-only section and new family suites, plus revamped meeting space to the tune of 20,000 sq. ft. Updates also include facelifts to the spa. A Marina Walk cultural and market area debuts early 2016. For more information, visit HawksCay.com.

The sun goes down on Hawks Cay. JASON STEMPLE

Romantic seclusion up for grabs in Caribbean

Newly restored, The Crane resort hotel in Barbados is offering 35 per cent off all rooms from now until July 15 for travel before April 14, 2016. Enjoy private pools, gardens, old-world charm and natural beauty. Guests staying for a week get additional resort credits. Email reservations@thecrane.com for details. Booking code: SUM2015.

DOUG WALLACE



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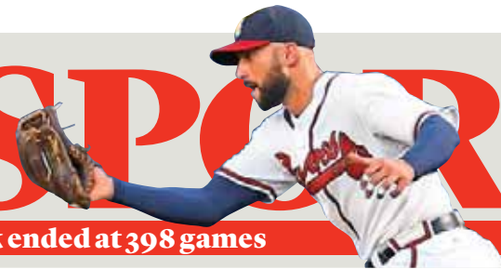

Atlanta outfielder Nick Markakis's record error-free streak ended at 398 games

WEEKEND, June 26-28, 2015

NHL

Canucks gear up for draft and possible trades

Draft day has turned into trade watch for fans of the Vancouver Canucks.

Thursday brought about even more speculation, in addition to that already circulating around Vancouver's goalies, most notably Eddie Lack, who has one year remaining on his current deal before he's eligible for unrestricted free agency.

"We've had a lot of interest in our goalies, so ... we're going to look at all the different options that we have and if we decide to do that, do our best deal," general manager Jim Benning told reporters in Florida on Thursday.

The first round of the draft goes Friday. The Canucks have the 23rd overall selection but don't have another pick until the fourth round. Benning has long been clear on his desire to recoup picks for rounds 2 and 3.

Veteran defenceman Kevin Bieksa has also been added to the circulation of trade rumours. Bieksa, 34, has spent the last 10 seasons with the Canucks, but struggled at times this past season paired on the blue line with Luca Sbisa. He also has a no-trade clause and his deal has an annual cap hit of $4.6 million.

Bieksa's agent, Kurt Overhardt, told Matt Sekeres of TSN 1040 on Thursday that the Canucks have not asked Bieksa to waive his no-trade clause. CAM TUCKER/METRO

Hurt, but still in the game

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

Sesselmann overcomes knee injury to help Canada

Canada defender Lauren Sesselmann has clawed her way back into the women's national team lineup after tearing her ACL in training for last year's Cyprus Cup. MINAS PANAGIOTAKIS/GETTY IMAGES

The post-practice ice bag on Lauren Sesselmann's knee is a reminder of the veteran defender's painful journey to the Women's World Cup.

At times it has been one step forward, two steps back in her return from anterior cruciate ligament surgery. The 31-year-old has had some missteps at the tournament. But the resilient Sesselmann has bounced back and continues to line up alongside teenage centre back Kadeisha Buchanan in a stingy Canadian defence.

In the tournament opener against China, a giveaway during a passage of erratic play in the first half meant Sesselmann had to convince coach John Herdman to keep her on the field. There were also some hiccups in the round-of-16-game against Switzerland.

Herdman has defended his centre back. But Sesselmann has felt the heat from the media, perhaps unfairly for an athlete who has had to go from zero to a 100 in returning from a serious knee injury.

"You hear it here and there," she said of the criticism. "People are always going to have something to say. You can be the best player in the world and they still have something to say. I'm not even worrying about that. I look where I am and how far we've gotten at the tournament and it's kind of that moment where you're just like 'We're here, you're not.'

"This is our team and we're focused on the talk at hand ... People can say what they want but we're focused on winning the Cup."

Canada's next challenge is England on Saturday in the quarter-finals at B.C. Place Stadium.

Sesselmann tries to see the bigger picture when it comes to being under the spotlight.

"Everybody in this tournament makes mistakes," she said.

"It's how you bounce back from them. And each game for me has been better and better. My job is to defend and that's exactly what I've been doing."

Canada is tied with the U.S. and Brazil with just one goal conceded at the tournament.

Sesselmann says she's been calmer each time out. And she takes great pride in having made it back to the national team.

"This time last year was a really bad time for me," she said. "And the whole (recovery) process itself, there were tons of highs and lows — mostly lows. So it was a really difficult passage for me.... I look where I was over a year ago, I'm just so proud of myself and just really excited.

"To be here is the greatest thing ever."

The American-born Sesselmann qualifies to play for Canada through her father, who was born in Stephenville, N.L. She was 28 when she made her debut for Canada.

She has won 44 caps for Canada and started all six games at the London Olympics where the Canadian women won bronze. THE CANADIAN PRESS

30M

FIFA says its 2014 Women's Football Survey, which drew responses from 177 of 209 member associations, showed that 30 million women play soccer worldwide. FIFA's goal is have 45 million women playing by 2019.

QUARTER-FINALS

FRIDAY	SATURDAY
In Montreal Germany vs. France, 1 p.m.	**In Edmonton** Australia vs. Japan, 1 p.m.
In Ottawa China vs. U.S., 4:30 p.m.	**In Vancouver** Canada vs. England, 4:30 p.m.

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The Whitecaps will be without centre backs Gershon Koffie, pictured and Kendall Watson on Saturday in Foxborough, Mass. RICH LAM/GETTY IMAGES

Yellow cards bite Caps

SOCCER

Koffie, Watson to miss road match in New England

Cam Tucker
Metro | Vancouver

The end to this lengthy road trip for the Vancouver Whitecaps is coming into view.

The fourth installment in this five-game excursion predominantly through the Eastern Conference goes Saturday as the Whitecaps play the New England Revolution with a chance for their third victory on this trip.

The Whitecaps lead Major League Soccer with five road wins, but will be without centre back Kendall Waston and midfielder Gershon Koffie. Both players received yellow cards last weekend, and due to accumulation, will have to miss Saturday's match.

"It's a big loss. They've been excellent the last couple of games especially. They're big players, we know that, but it will give other players opportunities," head coach Carl Robinson told reporters in a conference call this week.

Robinson believes he has a few options to fill the voids left by Waston and Koffie. First-rounder Tim Parker is on the trip, he said, and Diego Rodriguez continues to work his way back to fitness.

"It could be a little bit too early for Diego if we don't want to put him in that risky situation. We could also bring Christian Dean in that centre back area," said Robinson.

With Russell Teibert dealing with what Robinson called an ankle issue, teenage midfielder Deybi Flores, 19, could slot into Koffie's place if Teibert isn't ready.

NHL DRAFT

McDavid prepared for milestone moment

For Connor McDavid, this is only the beginning.

And he's eager to see what comes next.

There's no mystery, no drama, no guessing about what will happen when the Edmonton Oilers make the first pick in Friday night's NHL draft. It's going to be McDavid's moment, as hockey's latest heir apparent — a six-foot-one centre who's already been compared to the game's royalty — takes his first steps on the road to what many expect will be a rapid rise to professional stardom.

"You only go through the draft process once and it's something you want to savour," McDavid said. "It's something I've been looking forward to for a long, long time. (You're) going to be so happy when you're drafted, but that's when the hard work starts."

Connor McDavid GETTY IMAGES

He's going to a place that saw the Stanley Cup get hoisted five times in seven seasons from 1984 through 1990, with no titles since and not even as much as a playoff appearance since 2006. And the Oilers haven't exactly cashed in on having the top pick; McDavid will be their fourth No. 1 overall selection in the last six years.

But the Richmond Hill native is supposed to be different.

"Time will tell, but at this age, yes, probably," Florida general manager Dale Tallon said when asked if McDavid is the best prospect since Sidney Crosby.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Commissioner David Silver, left, welcomes Timberwolves No. 1 draft pick Karl-Anthony Towns to the NBA on Thursday night in Brooklyn. ADAM SILVER/GETTY IMAGES

NBA DRAFT

Timberwolves take Towns as No. 1 pick

The Minnesota Timberwolves selected Kentucky's Karl-Anthony Towns with the first pick in the NBA draft on Thursday night, the first of three straight freshmen chosen.

The Timberwolves went for the centre in their first time owning the No. 1 pick. They can add him to a young roster featuring rookie of the year Andrew Wiggins, who was picked first last year by Cleveland and later dealt to Minnesota in the Kevin Love trade.

The Los Angeles Lakers then took guard D'Angelo Russell of Ohio State, who was wearing a red jacket, bow tie and shoes that matched the Buckeyes' school colours.

The six-foot-11 Towns averaged 10.3 points and 6.7 rebounds in just 21 minutes per game, as Kentucky used a platoon system in winning its first 38 games and reaching the Final Four. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Ottawa beats Montreal after injuries on both sides

Jeremiah Johnson scored in the fourth quarter as the Ottawa Redblacks came back to defeat Montreal 20-16 after the Alouettes lost both starting quarterback Jonathan Crompton and backup Dan LeFevour to injury in the CFL season opener on Thursday night.

Brandon Bridge of Mississauga, Ont., the first Canadian to play quarterback for Montreal since Gerry Datillio in 1985, took over midway through the third quarter after LeFevour was injured on only his second play from scrimmage.

Ernest Jackson caught a touchdown pass for Ottawa, which also had a Delbert Alvarado field goal, a safety and a two-point conversion by quarterback Henry Burris. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lions sleep for first week of league play

CFL

Extra time good for injury recovery, training

Tempo and speed have been buzzwords around the B.C. Lions since Jeff Tedford was hired as the team's head coach.

The only problem is someone forgot tell the CFL schedule makers.

Among of the quirks in an unbalanced nine-team league is that one has to sit out each week. The Lions drew the short straw this time around and will start the 2015 season in neutral with a bye before finally hitting the field on July 4 in Ottawa against the Redblacks.

Nearly a month of intense training camp battles in front of a new boss followed by this sort of lull is something players aren't used to, but are embracing, at least publicly.

"It's going to be a little bit weird because we're amped up, right?" said quarterback Travis Lulay. "The whole thing ramps up to the regular season and now we have to sit for a week. The positive spin is we've got a few little nicks with some guys that are going to get a chance to be healthier and ready to play."

A coach who runs his practices with military-like precision, Tedford also said the time off will work to the Lions' benefit.

"We will utilize the off-week well," he said. "We have a lot of work to do and the team knows it."

Travis Lulay and the rest of the B.C. Lions will sit out this week before kicking their season off on July 4 against the Ottawa Redblacks. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **It's going to be a little bit weird because we're amped up, right?**
> Lions quarterback Travis Lulay

The break will also give Lulay, who is coming off two seasons marred by injuries to his throwing shoulder, and running back Andrew Harris (ankle surgery) a little extra time to recover from camp and get even more comfortable in Tedford's new offence. Both played the first half of B.C.'s 18-3 exhibition loss to the Saskatchewan Roughriders on Friday and declared themselves ready for when the games matter.

Lulay and Harris are key components in the fast-paced style that Tedford, the former head coach of the NCAA's California Golden Bears, is trying to bring to the CFL. The Lions want to keep defences off balance with no-huddle packages — new substitution rules should help with that — and were encouraged by their opening series in that preseason loss to Saskatchewan.

"We were running play after play after play and by the time we got down there and scored that touchdown they were huffing and puffing," said Harris. "We want to catch teams in those kinds of situations where we're dictating what's going on." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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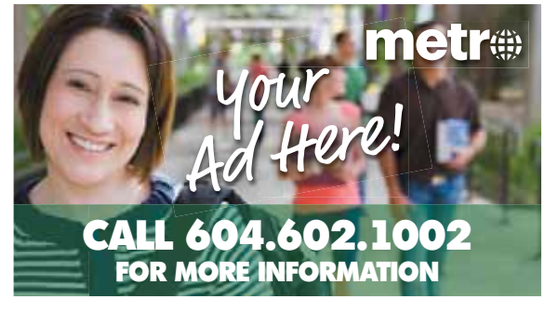

RECIPE Rose's Hawaiian Burger

EAT LIGHT AT HOME

Rose Reisman
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Ready in
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 23 minutes
Serves: 4

Ingredients
- 1 lb ground lean sirloin steak
- 3 Tbsp minced green onion
- 1/4 cup dry seasoned breadcrumbs
- 3 Tbsp barbecue sauce
- 1 1/2 tsp crushed fresh garlic
- a pinch of salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp dried basil
- 1 medium red bell pepper cut into four wedges
- 4 rings sweet large onion (cut into 1/4 thickness)
- 4 slices zucchini, sliced lengthwise (cut into 1/4 thickness)
- 2 round slices pineapple (1/2 thick, cut into four pieces)

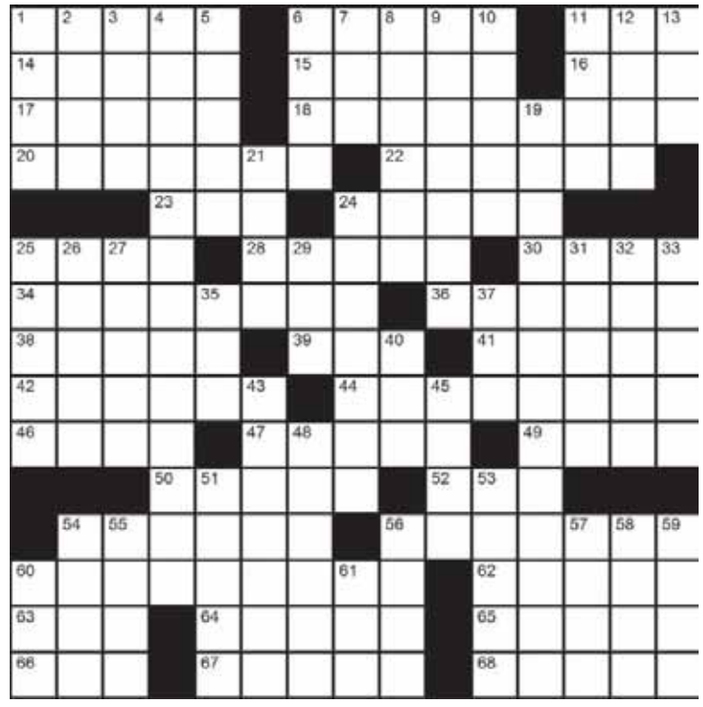
Directions
1. To make the burgers, combine meat, green onion, breadcrumbs, barbecue sauce, garlic, salt, pepper, egg and basil in a large bowl. Mix thoroughly and shape into four burgers. Grill for four minutes per side, or until no longer pink in the centre.
2. Meanwhile, grill on barbecue or in a pan, red bell pepper wedges, onion rings and zucchini slices until charred and tender, about 10 minutes. Add pineapple slices and grill for five minutes in total.
3. Layer burger with vegetables and pineapple and serve. If preferred, serve with hamburger buns.

Nutrition per serving
- Calories 280
- Protein 26 g
- Fat 13 g
- Sodium 253 mg

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Thicket of trees
6. Calendar amounts
11. Deplete
14. Literary adventurer Mr. Quatermain
15. Georgia of "The Mary Tyler Moore Show"
16. Blood-typing letters
17. Andes creature
18. Quantity for Earl Grey?
20. John _ (Canadian host of Food Network's "You Gotta Eat Here!")
22. Castle tower
23. Airport acronym
24. Filmdom's Mr. Eisenberg
25. Advertised-on-TV record co.
28. Scoundrel
30. Ms. Jordan
34. Like sci-fi aliens
36. Mr. Yoakam
38. "You wanna fight, you'll get a fight!": 2 wds.
39. "_ 2" (2015) starring Mark Wahlberg
41. Challenger's beginning words...
42. Naval port of France
44. Hit for #30-Across: "Make You a _"
46. Blind, as per falconry
47. Island retreat in 1988 hit "Kokomo"
49. Journalist's interest
50. "Kind of _ _" by The Buckinghams
52. Cottage bed
54. Muscular
56. Harry Potter's pal Ron
60. Porch's lovely-sounds-provider: 2 wds.
62. Zzzzz ...loudly!
63. Cousin of 1960s television
64. "Why _ _?" (How come you won't let me?)
65. Ancient Greek colony
66. Music style, _ Soul
67. "Wayne's World" (1992) character Garth
68. Basketball-into-net sound

DOWN
1. Math class, e.g.
2. Stewing pot
3. _ du jour (Restaurant's special)
4. Dutch cartographer (b.1728 - d.1801) who became British North America's first Surveyor-General in 1764: 2 wds.
5. Pass, as law
6. Abominable snowman
7. Opposite WSW
8. Types of quartz
9. Withdrew from a court case
10. Music symbols
11. Home free
12. Border on
13. Parliament Hill fig.
19. Donald Sutherland's character in the 'Hunger Games' movies: 2 wds.
21. Not nervous
24. Beetle kind: 2 wds.
25. Works with wool
26. From head-_-_
27. Occur as a result
29. Muesli tidbit
31. Tequila plant source
32. The Taming of the _
33. 'Gang' suffixes
35. Barcelona 'one'
37. Nintendo game console
40. Newbie socialite [abbr.]
43. Spiral-tusked Arctic whale
45. Pretty material
48. Emulating the sun
51. Record label
53. Desert green spot
54. Locale
55. Go _ detail
56. Figure skater Johnny
57. Ms. Anderson
58. Q. "'_ _' _ amongst George Clooney's acting gigs, right?" A. "Yeah, he played a doctor."
59. "You betcha!"
60. Succeed
61. Kingston Trio song

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
You can talk your way out of anything. Your powers of persuasion are second to none. Whether you use this talent wisely remains to be seen but wherever you go this weekend others will be impressed by your words.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Over the next few days it will become increasingly obvious that the world has moved and you must move with it. Taurus may at times be an inflexible sign but even you know the old way of doing things has had its day.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Mercury in your sign makes this an ideal time for forward planning, for thinking ahead. What you decide over the next few days will be what you bring into being over the next three or four weeks, so think carefully.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
What do you fear the most? Whatever it is, you must now face up to it and overcome it once and for all. Most likely you will discover it really isn't such a nightmare after all.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Your views and opinions are likely to change quite dramatically over the next few days. You will certainly become aware of possibilities that did not occur to you before. Too fixed an outlook is the enemy of progress, so be flexible in your thinking.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Your attitude towards your work will become a lot more serious over the next few days. Even if you are already successful in what you do you will realize there is so much more you can achieve.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
With mind planet Mercury moving through the area of your chart that governs long-distance travel, you won't be short of offers to expand your horizons. Accept each and every one of them.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Something will grab your attention today and captivate you to such an extent that you have little time for anything else. In the short-term that may be no bad thing but try not to let it become an obsession.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You seem to be doing a lot for other people and not so much for yourself. That needs to change. You must learn to say "no" whenever anyone, no matter how close, asks you to do things that you clearly don't enjoy.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
As Mercury moves through the work and health area of your chart you will find plenty of reasons to get busy — not least that you fear your reputation will suffer if you don't take a leading role. Don't exhaust yourself though.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Nothing is beyond you. All things are possible. According to the planets, you will make even the most difficult of tasks look easy. There is though a danger that you will take on too much and spread yourself too thin. Stay focused on your number one aim.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
You must stay true to your beliefs. The more others try to persuade you to change your way of looking at and dealing with the world the more you must dig in your heels and refuse.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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